# OUTLOOKS

November 2006

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# November in OUTLOOKS

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Sometimes a city is widely known for a sole reason when, in fact, there may be a multitude of phenomena which make that city world-famous. Such is the case with Orlando in central Florida...

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Photo by:
Dany Lanthier

Who ever knew a dumbbell could make you look sexy and fit! It's true. One of the most effective pieces of equipment in any gym is the dumbbell...

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What a unique name! This groups' handle evokes thoughts of a leather bar of some sort? In actual fact it is a highly motivated group of volunteers and staff that acts as a successful party promoter and charitable organization.

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# Foley's Follies

***By John Coulbourn***

Surely decent people everywhere must spare a moment or two of sympathy for the recently disgraced Republican Congressman Mark Foley–once we've quit gloating, that is.

Foley, you will no doubt recall, is the latest American politician to get caught trying to get more than his hand in the cookie jar, if you know what I mean.

Seemingly an untiring defender of exploited children everywhere—a man who once observed that America takes better care of its library books than its children—Foley fell mightily from favour when it was revealed that he was trying to get his library card stamped by a few of the young male pages who had been sent to Washington by loving families to make political connections and have their horizons broadened–but not too much.

Worse, he'd used the Internet to do it, thus assuring that it was all but impossible for him to deny his misbehavior.

In fairness, caught as he was with his metaphoric pants around his ankles, Foley didn't try to duck it.

"I'm a drunk," he cried instead.

"I'm a gay American," he bleated, his facility for stating the obvious leading some few of us to wonder if, in the heavily-encoded lexicon of the American Republican party, 'gay' has ceased to mean 'homosexual' and now means simply 'so stupid as to be one gene removed from a turnip'.

The ensuing media brouhaha has been impressive—a lethal mix of the general publics' preoccupation with other peoples' sex lives and a good dollop of glee at hypocrisy unearthed has proven heady stuff and America is all but drunk on it, it seems.

The ensuing feeding frenzy is likely to change the face of American politics in the forthcoming mid-term elections as voters, already weary of Republican ineptness in the White House, forsake the GOP in droves in favour of the more forgiving face of the Democrats, who for all their foibles, have at least succeeded in avoiding the more egregious sinkholes of legislated morality.

Staggering blindly under the weight of the Foley scandal, the Republican Party is once again taking careful aim and trying to shoot the messenger, scolding the media for covering the Foley scandal and ignoring the war in Iraq, the almost universal political disdain in which America is held, the tragedy of AIDS, the erosion of the health and education systems and any number of other things that Republicans have up to now tried to keep the media from covering by invoking the spectre of a homosexual agenda.

Closer to our Canadian home on the range, Stephen Harper and his Republican Lites have been up to similar tricks, threatening to revisit the whole same sex marriage issue in an attempt to distract voters from the fact that they don't seem to know what they are doing on fronts ranging all the way from Kabul to Kyoto—but the majority of the Canadian public is having none of it.

After two years of legal same sex marriage, most thinking Canadians now realize that a household comprised of Adam and Steve is not going to serve as a lightning rod to draw down the wrath of God on their quiet little suburban street, so what's the fuss?

Only slightly deterred, Harper and his little band of moral guardians are contemplating a bill that will protect the rights of churches to preach their particular band of hatred against gays, while also ensuring that no good 'Christian' will ever be forced to perform a civil ceremony uniting two people of the same sex—thus effectively ensuring, at the very least, that there will be very little civility left in the whole concept of civil unions.

The fact that such a law would be quickly struck down by any judiciary capable of seeing a link between gay bashing for Jesus to Jew bashing for Allah notwithstanding, it is still bemusing.

Are there not, within the born-again community, people of compassion and good will who are smart enough—hell, human enough—to look at a law like this that purports to defend the church by enshrining its right to hate and say: "Gee, Steve, thanks—but no thanks!'

Not that Harper is giving them much of a chance, prone as he is to sidestepping questions instead of answering them directly. Asked about any laws in defense of religion, he will only say that he hasn't seen them or he is unaware of them, thus keeping the flame of hatred alive amongst his supporters on the far right.

If he were to come right out and say he was going to try to enact such legislation, of course, his government would be revealed as the right-wing extremists they have long been accused of being—and if he said he would never enact it, he'd risk losing the support of the lunatic fringe that forms a major component of his political foundation.

And by keeping all these discussions alive, he's hoping we won't notice how bereft his government and his party have been on everything from compassion to vision.

But mostly, these days, I'm betting he's hoping he doesn't have a Foley in his future. ▼

*John Coulbourn is a native Albertan who lived for many years in Calgary. He now makes his home in Toronto, where he covers performing arts for the Toronto Sun.*

## IN THE NEWS

## November is a big month for anniversaries

*Lulu*

***By Darrin Hagen***

Not only is it the fifteenth year for Loud & Queer, but Canadian Drag Icon Lulu LaRude celebrates a quarter-century of doing drag this year. To mark the occasion, Lulu is doing a cross-country tour this month.

The anniversary tour has a special resonance, as the mighty Lulu has spent the last few months undergoing radiation and chemotherapy treatments for a brain tumour.

"It's perfect timing…I'm done with the radiation treatments, but have to wait to find out the results. As we all know, patience is not one of my stronger qualities. So I'm hitting the stage in both cities. Plus, it's my birthday as well as Lulu's," says the almost forty-three year old performer.

Hundreds of Queens and thousands of drag fans will remember the amazing night they met Lulu, created by performer Charles Gillis. Dozens of drag artistes all across the country owe their humble beginnings to his powers of persuasion. The enduring drag legend has a firm and regal grip on his home city of Halifax, where he was recently awarded a special citation by the Mayor for all of the fundraising and community awareness he has spearheaded.

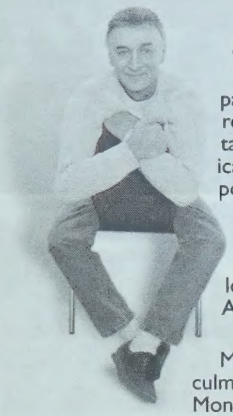
But it's the Edmonton years that established him as a force to be reckoned with in Canada. Having been there at the start, many lucky Edmontonians can mark the time and date they first saw Lulu perform; now, as her first quarter century draws to a close, they can celebrate alongside her.

Sunday, November 5, Lulu LaRude performs at Buddy's Nightclub in Edmonton, hosting a special one-night-only fundraiser for the fifteenth Annual Loud & Queer Festival. Then Lulu jets back home to Halifax where she marks, in typically glamourous fashion, her twenty-fifth year of performing in drag. At Reflections Nightclub, the number one dance bar in Halifax, Halifax's number one drag performer takes the stage on Sunday, November 12.

If you feel the earth trembling in November, it's probably the crowd cheering and stomping. ▼

*Darrin Hagen is the author of 1 book and 11 plays, all of which feature a man wearing a dress. He is currently working on an updated 10th anniversary edition of "The Edmonton Queen".*

# Racing To Lead



*By Roy Heale*

This month two very important Canadian political parties are seeking to elect new head honchos. As the respective campaigns come to a conclusion, two important new leaders will emerge upon the Canadian political landscape. These two people will both have the potential to affect a major impact upon the GLBT community in their respective jurisdictions.

Alberta's Conservative Party is looking for a new monarch to ascend to King Ralph's throne, not only lead the party, but also become the Premier of Alberta—at least until the next provincial election.

The Liberal Party of Canada is searching for Paul Martin's replacement and the leadership campaign culminates at their Leadership and Biennial Convention in Montreal, November 28 to December 2. This new party leader will immediately become the Leader of the Official Opposition in Canada's Parliament—and perhaps a future Prime Minister—if current Prime Minister Stephen Harper continues on his current downward slide in the polls.

Currently the acknowledged front-runner for the Alberta crown is Jim Dinning, a former minister in Ralph Klein's first government. The architect of budget cuts, Provincial Treasurer Dinning's financial strategy is widely credited for Alberta's balanced budget and subsequent surpluses. Since leaving Ralph's team in 1997 Dinning has enjoyed success in the corporate world and his return to politics is being hailed as "The new future for Alberta".

Jim Dinning

However, throughout Dinning's leadership campaign he has successfully avoided commenting on GLBT issues and there is no indication that this transfer of power will herald a new era of equality for Alberta's GLBT community in this province.

As one of nine candidates in this leadership race it would appear that the "smart money" is on Dinning to win on November 25 on the first ballot.

All that is necessary for Alberta residents to vote is the purchase of a party membership for five dollars and these can be purchased right up until voting day and at the balloting stations on the day of the vote. You may want to quiz the candidates as to where they stand on GLBT issues in Alberta, acquire a membership and cast your vote. Help elect a gay-friendly Alberta Premier—if that's not an oxymoron.

The federal Liberal Party leadership race seems less certain for any one particular candidate to claim the prize. The three front-runners are working hard to win the title. Currently, Michael Ignatieff, Bob Rae and Stephane Dion seem to be leading the pack but anything is possible before the convention in Montreal. As they say "A day in politics is like a week in the life of...."

All delegates to this convention have now been selected and the ultimate decision to crown a new leader rests in their hands. With a federal election almost certain in 2007—as Stephen Harper tries to win a majority government–this new Liberal leader has to take the reigns of the party at full gallop.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has made it known he intends to re-open the same-sex marriage legislation in Parliament before the December recess and this could be one of the first challenges facing the new Leader of the Official Opposition. Even though the Liberal Party position on same-sex marriages has been clear in the past, with a free vote in the House of Commons anything is possible and Liberals will be needed to defeat any legislation or actions taken by the current government.

So you may want to pay attention as oil-rich Alberta chooses a new Premier and the federal Liberals choose a possible future Prime Minister of Canada.

Let's hope these two individuals believe in Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms as they pertain to equality for all Canadians. ▼

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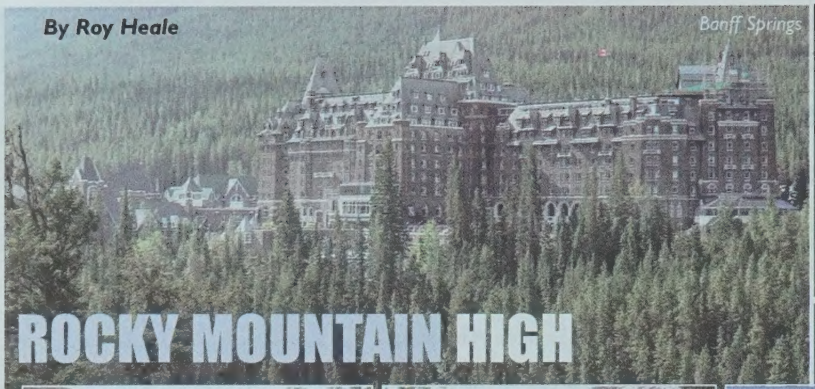
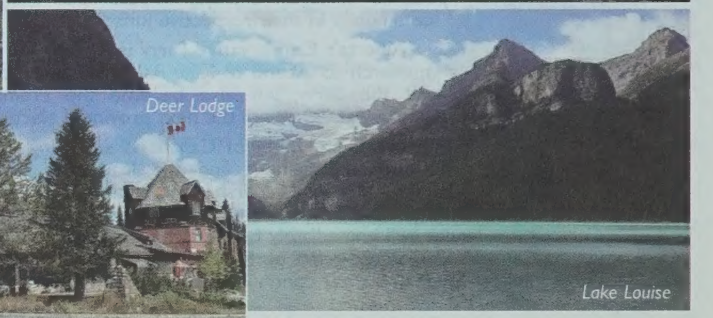
By Roy Heale


Banff Springs

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

Emerald Lake


Lake Louise

Emerald Lake Lodge

Buffalo Mountain Lodge

Deer Lodge

Often this region is referred to as God's Country and it only takes one visit to Western Canada's Rocky Mountains to understand why. Towering thousands of feet towards the sky, these rugged creations of nature are an awesome and breathtaking experience. Although they have a reputation as Canada's winter wonderland, they are a year-round destination for tourists from around the world. There's a peaceful, calming effect that permeates from these tranquil giants, creating the perfect vacation atmosphere for relaxation, recreation and rest with a change of pace.

Outdoor activities are the order of the day here during each season even though the recreational pursuits may change with the weather. Some of the best downhill or cross-country skiing, snow shoeing or tobogganing in the world is available in winter months. But this quickly changes to hiking, mountain climbing, kayaking, sightseeing and canoeing as the weather warms up.

Just a short drive from Calgary are the towns of Canmore and Banff, nestled at the gateway to the mountains and ready to welcome you at the start of your vacation. At this point it is hard to take your eyes away from the awesome scenery, but both towns offer much to see and do for the enjoyment of vacationers.

Canmore was the site of the cross-country ski competitions during the 1988 Winter Olympics and as a result it has developed into a thriving vacation centre. This small village offers an abundance of retail stores, restaurants, pubs and accommodations. Strolling around town is a pleasant step back in time with rich rewards as you discover the settlement's amenities.

From the early days of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, Banff became a resting place for weary trans-continental train travellers and later developed into a playground for the rich and famous. Today it is world-renowned for its scenic location. The magnificent Banff Springs Hotel, designed in the style of a Scottish castle, is nestled in the mountains overlooking the scenic Bow River Valley. The waterfalls, the sulphur hot springs and the gondola ride to the top of Sulphur Mountain (7486 feet above sea level) are just three of the major attractions that contribute to Banff's popularity.

Another thirty-minute drive into the mountains reveals Lake Louise, which is a perfect formation of mountains, topped by a glacier, which feeds into a clear blue lake. The Chateau Lake Louise, modeled in the classic style of a French chateau, wraps around the lakeshore. The hiking trails around the lake and up into the mountains are a physical workout that is made to seem effortless by the wonderful scenery and wildlife to be discovered along the route.

Although there are no gay specific accommodations in these mountain retreats, the effect of global tourism makes the whole region gay-friendly and you can be sure of being treated equally as just another visitor enjoying the sights.

However, not all accommodations are equal and one group of rustic lodges stands out from the crowd.

Canadian Rocky Mountain Resorts operates three of the best accommodations in the heart of these natural settings. The Buffalo Mountain Lodge in Banff, the Deer Lodge at Lake Louise and the Emerald Lake Lodge at Field in Yoho National Park are a trio of exceptional places to make your stay in the mountains a perfect escape. Yesterday's travellers were adventurous as they journeyed by train or on horseback in search of the extraordinary. Today, these lodges provide luxurious accommodations as people still search for the extraordinary during their vacation.

If you're searching for that unique retreat for an anniversary, birthday celebration or a memorable honeymoon then Emerald Lake Lodge is the most romantic get-away possible. The fact that you park your car a short distance from the resort and arrive by shuttle bus indicates that you are truly leaving everything behind you and escaping deep into the mountains.

Built of hand-hewn timber and featuring massive stone fireplaces, the Lodge includes a formal dining room, quiet reading and sitting rooms and a games room. The lounge is enhanced by an oak bar, which was salvaged from an 1890's Yukon saloon. From the upper or lower large verandahs, the visions nature presents are as fresh and breath-taking as ever. As soon as you arrive, the striking green hue of the lake makes you understand how the name Emerald Lake was derived.

A respect for the past characterizes the accommodations at Emerald Lake Lodge. Dotting the thirteen-acre peninsula are twenty-four cabin-style buildings, newly built to reflect the traditional architecture of the Lodge. Rooms have private baths, balconies and wood burning fieldstone fireplaces, which are stocked daily with complimentary firewood. Each room includes feather duvets and pillows, telephones, in-room coffee makers, hair dryers, alarm clocks and Internet access for today's luxuries in yesterday's surroundings.

The Mount Burgess dining room overlooks the lake and the mountain glacier towers above you as you gaze out onto the beautiful vista while awaiting your meal. The menu is extensive with specialties of the house featuring many local wild game dishes. The wild game platter as an appetizer introduces you to everything that is local with flavours guaranteed to tantalize an appetite for your main course. Menu choices include caribou, elk, moose and duck—to name a few—each accompanied by local vegetable dishes like Yukon Gold potatoes, savoy cabbage apple slaw or sweet potato mushroom gratin. The food choices, with their rich and flavourful sauces, are attractively presented by attentive servers, making this a gourmet dining experience not easily forgotten.

Relaxing after dinner in the hot tub with a mountain view or sitting beside the fire pit on the lakeshore will complete the perfect day. Emerald Lake Lodge truly is the perfect gem of the Rocky Mountains.

Whatever itinerary you plan for your visit to God's Country—in whichever season you choose for your vacation—will prove to be the perfect escape from reality surrounded by mother nature at her very best. ▼

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# Out For Kicks

*By Jesse Trautmann*

The game was still tied after two ten-minute halves in overtime. "It's a shoot-out," someone yelled from the crowd watching the Downtown Soccer Toronto League Finals at Riverdale Park West. Minutes later, red triumphed over blue as the Woody's Red Hot Rhino's beat out Fly Code Blue for the top spot.

The crowd, comprised of other league members, cheered this exciting end to the soccer year. Six of the league's eight teams had played earlier in the day, competing for positions from third to eighth. Many stayed to support the other teams.

Loui Dallas' spirits kept up even though his team, the Hair of the Dog Greyhounds, came in last place. "I can show you my license," he said jokingly to prove he gave me his real name and not that of some porn star. Dallas went on to say that the teams in the league are chosen fairly by putting players through a skills clinic in the spring. Players are then ranked and teams are evenly made up of beginner and experienced players.

"They only give you your ranking if you ask for it," said Dallas, which was appealing to him because he was the stereotypical gay kid who feared sports and was always picked last in gym. Being a part of Downtown Soccer has been a great experience for him, helping dissolve his feelings of gay marginality in sports. "Feeling included allows me to be more competitive," he said with a chuckle, realizing his team placed eighth. "But we came in first place last year," he oted.

When it comes to picking team captains—distinguished on the field by red armbands—it's done with a democratic vote. Players vote for the self-nominated candidates to fill the two captain positions on every team.

"One captain is responsible for all the administrative aspects like game locations and e-mails; the other one handles things on the field during games," said Steve Lloyd, Downtown Soccer's Operations Coordinator. "As for picking positions, everyone tries different ones to see what fits," Lloyd said laughing at how sexual that sounded, much like the "jokes about frolicking in the locker room even though they don't have one."

Programs like the skills clinic are made possible by raising money at team fundraisers and from government grants. This year the league was able to get a Trillium Grant with the help of Ian Malcolm, an Executive member who has a sports marketing degree.

"We're very thankful for that support this year. The money also helps with a lot of development," said Lloyd.

Since the league started four years ago, it has doubled the number of teams and now has 160 members. Various bars and clubs in Toronto's gay community including Fire on the East Side, Vice, The Zone and O'Grady's, sponsor the teams.

The team's fundraiser nights take place in their sponsors' bar, drawing people in with fun themes and competitions like 'So You Think You Can Dance' and 'Best Soccer Legs.'

"At one fundraiser we had people voting on which player they most wanted to see in drag," Richard Perkins told me at the post-game party. "We've also done kissing booths that have been successful," he said pointing out a cute member across the patio who had volunteered his lips for the cause.

One of the post-game parties was on the patio of Crews/Tango and many players (out of their uniforms to my disappointment) lounged and socialized over drinks.

"You guys crushed Crews last week. I'm just glad we didn't get creamed by Fly," Justin deGuzman said to the gaggle of players, all engaged in banter and soccer shop-talk. deGuzman was sitting next to his boyfriend, Bruno Duarte, who was also on The Zone Rangers. They both have been playing soccer for years and decided to join the league together.

"When we applied we made sure to be 'buddy linked' which means we were put on the same team," Duarte said. The couple also told me that you can be 'buddy linked' with a friend when you join to make things less intimidating.

Although Justin and Bruno coupled up before they joined Downtown Soccer a few romances have started between guys who have met through the league. "We had a few on our team. Actually it's happening a lot more this year," said Perkins, "Unfortunately they're not here tonight."

Just then Inti Ali, next years' League Commissioner, came out on the patio with a warm welcome of shouts and cheers. After that, the laid back gathering of sports lovers resumed. ▼

For more information about the Downtown Soccer Toronto League visit **downtownsoccertoronto.org**.

## 2006 Playoffs Scoreboard

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st | Woody's Rhino's |
| 2nd | Fly Code Blue |
| 3rd | O'Grady's Lucky Charms |
| 4th | Vice Grip |
| 5th | The Zone Rangers |
| 6th | Fire on the East Side Fire |
| 7th | Crews You Are In Trouble |
| 8th | Hair of the Dog Greyhounds |

*Jesse Trautmann is a twenty-four year-old freelance writer living in Toronto. He is also a student of Journalism at Ryerson University. Check out his youth perspectives column in abOUT magazine and Turnstyle for Gay Guide Toronto.*


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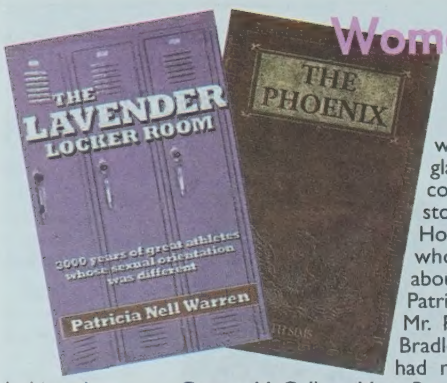
# Women On Men?




***By Ralph Higgins***

A basic rule of writing is: Write what you know. So, at first glance, it would seem to be a contradiction for gay male love stories to be written by women. However, the list of female authors who have written, convincingly, about men loving men is a long one: Patricia Highsmith and the Talented Mr. Ripley stories, Marion Zimmer Bradley, whose Darkover sci-fi series had numerous sympathetic gay and lesbian characters, Carson McCullers, Mary Renault, Marguerite Yourcenar, Lynn Flewelling, Poppy Z. Brite, Diana Gabaldon, Caro Sols and many others, including, most notably, the creator of "Brokeback Mountain", Annie Proulx.

What is the inspiration for these stories and what leads women writers to gay male characters? Two women agreed to share their thoughts on this process.

Ruth Sims, (**ruthsims.com**), the author of *The Phoenix*, married her childhood sweetheart, raised a family in small town Illinois and is, in her own words, "a Midwestern, unsophisticated, untravelled, not-terribly-well-educated white-collar woman who loves words and has people in her head aching to come out." Her novel, *The Phoenix* started out as a straight love story set during the Civil War but when two of the male characters took on a life of their own, Sims decided to follow where they would lead and the result was the gay love story between an actor and a physician in Victorian England.

Patricia Nell Warren (**wildcatintl.com**) is the author of the classic best-seller, *The Front Runner*, first published in 1974, the moving love story between an ex-Marine track coach and a runner who hopes to make the Olympic team. Nell Warren worked on *The Front Runner* during her lunch breaks from her job at *Reader's Digest*, afraid her homophobic husband would find it if she wrote at home. A lesbian who had yet to come out of the closet, Nell Warren had always been interested in sports. Then, in 1972, she had a conversation with a young gay man. "He told me how he had felt compelled to give up his ambition to make the U.S. Olympic team because he wanted to come out—and he knew he couldn't be out and make the team. He had chosen personal honesty over the shot at a gold medal in the 1500-meter. This conversation haunted me, and got me thinking in the direction that became *The Front Runner's* story line."

Sims agrees that some characters become like ghosts that won't leave until their stories are told. With *The Phoenix* "I kept putting the manuscript away and it kept devilling my mind until I finally just let Kit off the leash. He wasn't happy until he was the star. He literally haunted my life."

There was a time when voice appropriation was a common phrase; many felt that a story about blacks or women or gays, for example, could not be authentic unless the author was black, a woman or gay. Both authors reject this notion. Nell Warren notes, "In real life, writers break this 'rule' every day. We aren't required to commit suicide to write about death, mystery writers don't kill people as part of their research. The voice appropriation rule denies the role of imagination in creating that literary world." In other words, one doesn't have to be a gay man to write about queer men.

Yet all factions of the gay community have not always accepted these works. Sims says that some gay book clubs refused to read stories not penned by men, but that overall the reaction has been very positive and encouraging. Nell Warren has had hostility too, but from other gay women. "There was the time that some in the lesbian world avoided me like the plague, viewing me as a "traitor." Yet over the years, around forty per cent of *The Front Runner's* readership has been lesbian and bi women. Today, most of the old "iffiness" towards me has softened a little. I accept being controversial. Controversy is healthy—it moves people to re-examine their most cherished notions, and keeps everybody from getting too comfortable."

It has been suggested that men who write about gay relationships tend to go, narratively, from sex scene to sex scene, while women tend to fill in the full story more. Are women more interested in romance rather than sex? Says Nell Warren, "I think it's risky to generalize. There are men who live for cuddling, and there are women who get right down to the sex. I can only comment on what I like to do as a writer, which is to put the sex in the larger context of mental, emotional and spiritual things going on with that person. So, depending on the character, sex and romance can be equally important—or not important at all."

Sims says that most of her stories are about "survivors of one kind or another". And as for what leads her to stories about gay men, "Part of my interest in men loving men is that I truly believe in love. And I'm old enough to know that maintaining love of any kind is difficult. Add to that the weight of society's disapproval and religious condemnation, and I believe that for gay and lesbian love to survive it must be incredibly strong. And the lovers have to be incredibly strong."

Ruth Sims

Can books really make a difference? For Nell Warren, *The Front Runner* was very important in her life. "It was the catalyst that brought me to coming out. But I have to add that every book I write changes my life in some way. A book is an experience that I get to have, and after I have it, I get to share it with other people." Her sequels to *The Front Runner*, *Harlan's Race* and *Billy's Boy*, among other works, have ensured her continuing great popularity. Her forthcoming non-fiction book, *The Lavender Locker Room*, tells real-life stories about gay athletes. She is a strong voice on human rights issues and free speech.

Ruth Sims says that writing *The Phoenix* helped her become even more open than she was previously. And angrier. "As I have come to know more and more gay persons, I have become increasingly aware of the homophobia and injustice in our society and around the world. There's so little one extremely shy Midwestern granny can do about it other than to keep writing letters to politicians and keep writing my books, hoping maybe a story about two men who love each other might make a difference." ▼

*Ralph Higgins is a writer, columnist and book/movie reviewer living in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia.*

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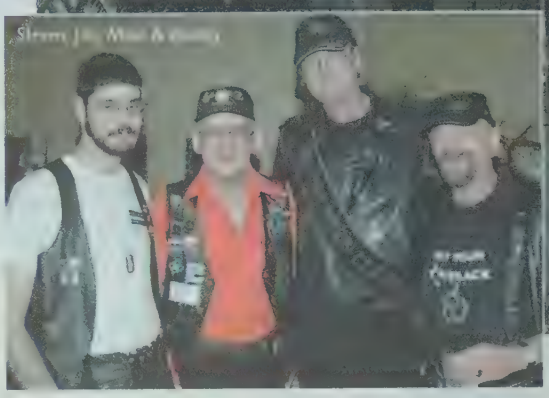
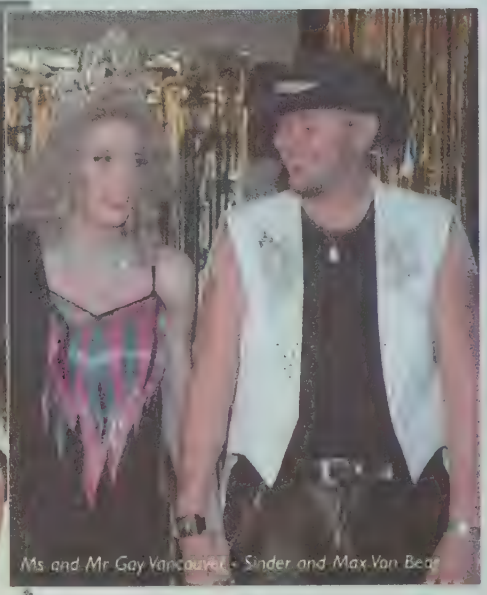
## Renegade Meet & Greet—Oct 13

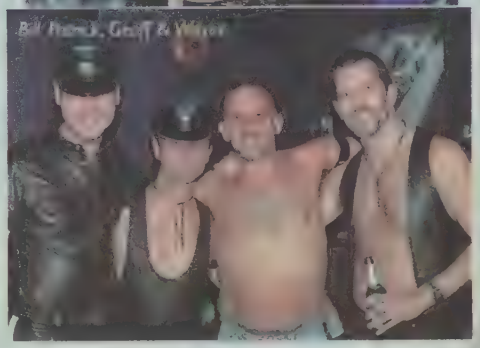


*Planning an event in Vancouver? Contact Barry at (604) 685-1377and he'll see about covering it in Out & About. Photos by: Barry Piersdorff*

## Bootylicious
### —Oct 13 at Numbers Leather Loft

## Mr & Ms Gay Vancouver
### —Oct 7 at the Holiday Inn



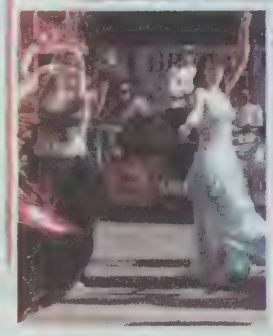
dawson, patrick, logan and lucas

...nothing evil
about the boys
goofing around.

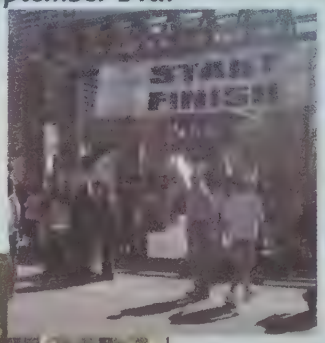
Corbin Fisher

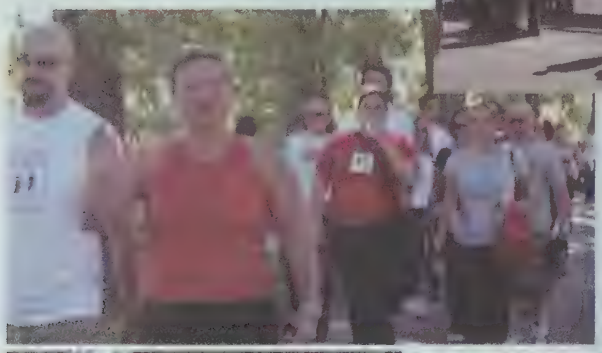
CorbinFisher.com

out & about CALGARY



## AIDS Walk 2006
### at Eau Claire Market
### September 24th



## HOROSCOPE

November is a great time to make waves. A bold host of planets traipse through Scorpio into Sagittarius and take a snarly nip at Pluto. Changes are afoot once you set things into motion. Set your own course and avoid any turkeys ... unless they are stuffed and roasted.

**ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)**

Proud Rams delight in the full range of earthly delights and why not? November will heat your stewpot to a slow and steady simmer. Before you boil over, temper your ardor with a flight of fancy with a particularly charming admirer. Travel can not only bring things into focus for a certain relationship, they can also create new, delicious liaisons. Yummy.

**TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)**

If there are some burning issues that need to be addressed in a certain partnership, think it through carefully before you express yourself. Handled correctly, you will be able to charm your way to love and even lust. Queer Bulls can nurture their dreams and make them come true as the month wears on. Did I say "dreams"? I meant dreamboats.

**GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)**

November will bring you the opportunity to make some significant strides at work. Pink Twins will find that they can pour on the effort and reap substantial results. But don't sit in the backroom and wait for the world (or bosses) to notice. By mid-month, you will be poised to cash in and make the most of your efforts. Mount your campaign ... or something like that.

**CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)**

Creativity will hit a high note for all gay Crabs this November. Not only can you find many ways to express your gay muse, you can also participate in others' versions of artistic fun, from performances to parties. Sparks of genius can be found in every socket. This is not the time to sit home and wait for the pride parade to come to you. Get off the couch, get ready and get Out.

**LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)**

Proud Lions will find that they can be amply entertained right at home this November. Whether you decide to throw a massive Thanksgiving basheroo or just hang out with a few select friends and family is up to you. The secret to your happiness will be connection and reconciliation wherever possible. Don't compromise but be prepared to lend a sympathetic ear and give advice.

**VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)**

Get on your soapbox and change the world. Well, if you can't change the entire world, start with your immediate neighborhood. Queer Virgins often have excellent ideas but tend to keep them under wraps. Don't fall to that temptation. Mid-month you will realize that not only are you right most of the time, you don't mind letting others know that is the case.

**LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)**

While you'll have a great urge to make lots of money in November, you may find that your path to early retirement takes a bit of a detour. This is because you may not be listening to or may be misinterpreting good financial advice. But don't worry gay Libra, by mid-month you'll be back on track and ready to become a bull or a bear with the rest of the gobblers.

**SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)**

Proud Scorps become the center of attention whether they like it or not. That is because a bunch of planets sit in your own sign. Don't fight fate. You can accomplish a great deal this month by just pushing your agenda with the right influential people. Your assorted rumblings can lead to rumbles. Good thing too. Shake up the space and toss out the incumbents.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)**

As much as you disdain secrets and behind the scene maneuvers, early November will be a great time to brew your assorted potions in secret. But don't feel that you need to keep all your great ideas under wraps for too long. You'll soon be given a great opportunity to strut your stuff. By mid-month, gay Archers will set their personal course into motion. Err ... or is that into commotion...?

**CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)**

They usually say the more the merrier and that is certainly the case for pink Caps this November. Friends will come out of the woodwork and manage to get you into all sorts of delightful mischief. Don't limit yourself to the same, small coterie of compadres. There are some interesting folks out there waiting to meet you. Expand your social circle into a globe and go trotting.

**AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)**

Aqueerians will be apt to spend more time and attention on career prospects. You may find yourself embroiled in political intrigue. If so, try to hold off on any actions until mid-month. There are aspects of the power play that are not quite in focus. Time will tell. In the meantime, find ways of showcasing your talents to the powers-that-be in a neutral, yet insidious manner.

**PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)**

Sensitive and perceptive Guppies can see all this November. Not only will they be especially intuitive, they also can imagine the entire landscape from various angles. But don't waste this valuable aptitude on trivial aims. There is so much at stake and so few who really see things as they are. Burdensome? You bet, but then so is doing nothing and complaining.

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OUT & ABOUT CALGARY

## Connie & Sharon's Wedding

**September 16th**

*Congratulations!*

# Why Dumbbells are so Smart

*By Ryan Spring*

Who ever knew a dumbbell could make you look sexy and fit! It's true. One of the most effective pieces of equipment in any gym is the dumbbell. As they are simple and flexible, they can be used in a number of exercises in your workout routine. Whether you belong to a gym or workout at home or even outdoors, dumbbells are portable, require virtually no maintenance and come in any weight amount you demand.

The nice aspect about dumbbells is that you don't necessarily require a partner to spot you unless you are using heavy weights or you are a beginner. A partner can help to correct any imbalances.

Dumbbells are an effective tool for strength training. Strength training isn't just for the avid fitness enthusiast as everyone can take advantage of the dumbbell. Research shows that simple dumbbell exercises offer many benefits including:

- Increased strength of bones and connective tissues, such as tendons and ligaments
- Increased muscle mass
- Increased muscle endurance
- Increased metabolic rate allowing for improved caloric-burn

Your muscles will only get stronger and bigger when they are forced to work beyond their normal daily activity. Essentially this means you have to challenge the muscles. There are three effective ways to challenge your muscles and become stronger using dumbbells:

1. Increased resistance by using the weight itself of varying and increasing weight-levels. This means increase the dumbbell weight as your workout routine demands.
2. Repetitions (How many times you perform the same exercise in one set).
3. Number of sets of each exercise (three sets is the average).

Improvements in muscle strength and tone can be seen relatively quickly after performing an effective dumbbell routine usually within a few weeks. Remember it's always a smart idea to incorporate stretching and rotating exercises (also known as a warm-up) before you begin a dumbbell workout. After each set and during your rest period, I would recommend you stretch out the muscle group. With this basic understanding of dumbbells and their ability to improve your strength, endurance and the size of your muscles, the following are some tips for a few dumbbell exercises. And as always, before beginning any fitness program, consult your doctor and learn proper techniques through a certified fitness professional.

## Bicep Curl

There are two general types of bicep curls I incorporate in my own workout routine. The first sees my palm facing forward and as I curl the dumbbell upward, I ensure my elbow remains close to the side of my body. This helps build the *ball* or the *peak* of the bicep.

## Bicep Curl 2

The second bicep curl sees my palm face my body as I raise the dumbbell upward. This small difference in the direction of the palm concentrates on the length of the muscle. Make sure you never over-extend or lock the elbow on the downward movement.

## Tricep Curl

I find the most effective way to exercise the tricep with the dumbbell is to use any bench and perform a tricep curl.

Ensure your elbow is facing the ceiling when you extend the dumbbell upwards. Your arm will be parallel to the floor and ensure you don't over- extend the arm.

## Shoulder Press

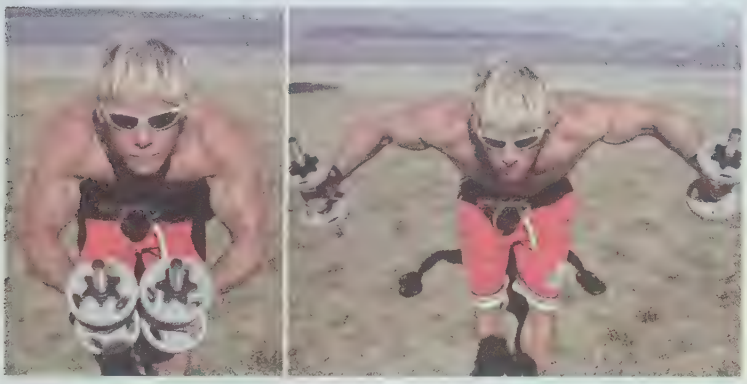
Of all the dumbbell exercises, the shoulder press has the biggest chance to cause injury so make sure you use a reasonable weight-level and have a partner spot you if you are beginner or choose to use heavy weights.

## Front Anterior Raise

This shoulder exercise primarily works the anterior deltoids (the main forward portion of your shoulder) and helps create proportion to your shoulder. Ensure you maintain proper posture throughout this exercise and be aware of lifting too much weight. It's very easy to hurt your back or other muscles by adding unnecessary weight.

### Lateral Raise

Lateral raises are excellent for shaping and defining the shoulders. Again, ensure you don't lift too much weight as this is more of a defining exercise than a building exercise.



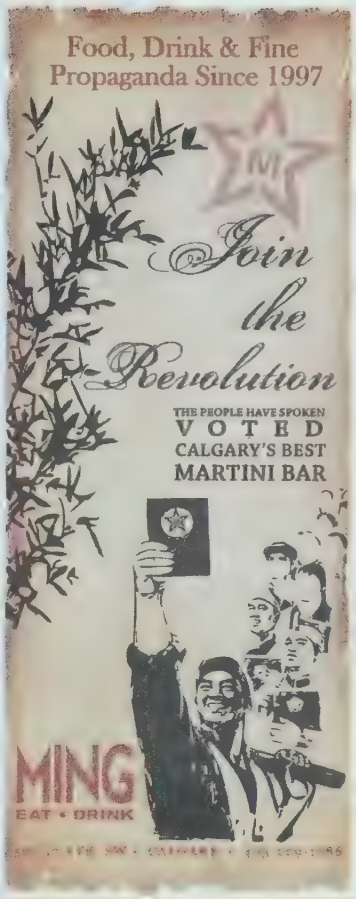
### Posterior Raises

This exercise is an excellent exercise to build shoulder mass and create definition. Keep the weight at a moderate level and pay close attention to form. It's very important to remember that shoulders are frequently injured due to errors in training such as over-use, insufficient warm-up or excessive repetitions. Be careful not to over-work this area.

These are just a few exercises you can do with the dumbell. There are many more and it's important to learn the right technique for these and all other exercises.

By the way, wondering where the term *dumbbell* came from? The word originated in Sixteenth Century England as young men were noticing significant muscle gain by literally ringing the bells in church towers. Soon others were installing crude pulley and weighted-rope devices in their homes and barns. Since these home-made devices were not ringing actual bells, they began to be called "Dumb Bells." As the nineteenth century rolled, around people got rid of the rope and pulley and just used the weights for exercise. ▼

*Ryan Spring is an ACE (American Council on Exercise) certified personal trainer. For online training and more information, visit: ryanspringfitness.com*

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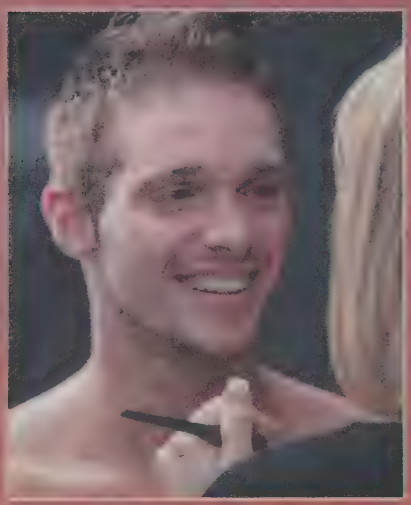
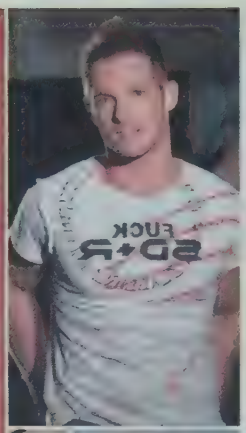
# COVERguy Crowns King

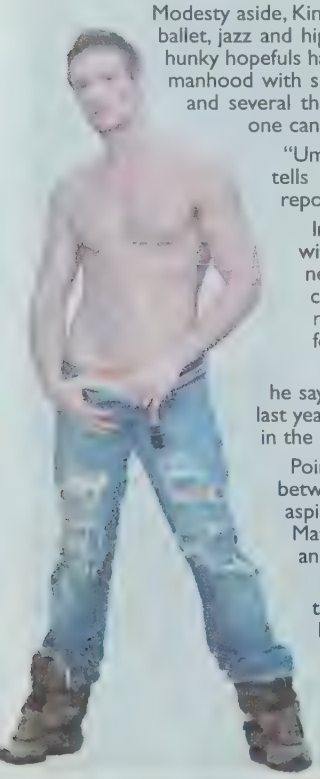




by Natasha Greene | Photography by Brian Lawrence | [illegible]

If you haven't heard of Gerry King, you soon will. This professional dancer and Toronto native has just been crowned COVERguy's Season Two winner, capturing the coveted crown of Canada's next top male model and oodles of prizes, the cover of *Outlooks* Magazine and a one year membership at Good Life Fitness. And nobody was more surprised at this royal coup then the mild-mannered King himself!

"It was a big shock," confesses the sprightly twenty-year old via his cell phone, as he waits in a cafe line to order his lunch. "I was standing next to all these muscled beautiful bodies and I was the guy with the hairy red chest."



Modesty aside, King clearly holds his own on the runway. Trained in ballet, jazz and hip-hop, our red-chested hero beat out a slew of hunky hopefuls hailing from coast to coast, a delicious selection of manhood with such ingredients as a small-town Ontario farmer and several thick slices of American pie—a delicacy in which one can assume King rarely indulges...

"Um, I'll have a tuna wrap... no, no mayonnaise," King tells the sandwich-maker (not quite out of this reporter's earshot!)

Interestingly, although COVERguy sought contestants within Canada's gay community and airs on gay networks like OUTtv, King is the series' first gay champion. Last year's winner was straight, as were ninety per cent of the pageant's contestants. King feels he's doing his community proud.

"It's nice to represent my city and gay community," he says. "I was pretty shocked that a straight guy won last year. It's not like there's a slim pick of beautiful faces in the gay community."

Pointing out that sex appeal doesn't discriminate between persuasions and COVERguy welcomes all aspiring male models, host and associate producer Mathieu Chantelois admits he had lots of fun announcing this winner.

"It's the first time I had the feeling I was giving the tiara to Miss Universe. It was really cute to see him receiving his flowers. He's a professional dancer, really young and he came on the show with the mindset that he has what it takes to be a model. He fought to the top, and he won."

A reality show veteran himself, Chantelois can empathize with the contestants' angst. Four years ago, the Montréal-born journalist hit the airwaves as a cast member on the longest reality TV show in history, U8TV: The Lofters, and went on to create, host and co-produce the Gemini-award nominated SoGay TV. When he's not acting as master of COVERguy ceremonies, Chantelois moonlights as Editor-in-Chief of the country's biggest French movie magazine, *Famous Québec*.

As for King, he initially saw COVERguy advertised in Toronto's lub nightclub, and simply said to himself, "Why not?" Cheered on by friends and family, alongside his competitors he strutted his stuff before the merciless eyes of "Stylist Maha" got a head-to-toe makeover and sported great designer clothing.

So, what made him stand out from the rest? Personality, of course.

"It's all about personality," enthuses King. As for his less fortunate counterparts, "I guess they didn't prove themselves special. I was just 'out there.' I showed I cared and I wanted to win, I gave good energy, I wanted to be there, I was excited and I had fun."

He advises next year's contestants to also put something special into it. "And don't be afraid to be yourself—that might make you win. Don't let anyone tell you different. Be yourself and do what makes you happy."

While accomplished as a dancer, King knows only too well that his fifteen minutes might be up and that he's a new kid to the modeling game. "As with all reality shows, you kind of have to take what you learned from the experience and try to apply it to other situations." Yet he's keen to pay his dues, find an agent, and explore possibilities in the modeling industry.

(And yes, he's single.) ▼

*Natasha Greene is a Toronto-based writer and shiatsu therapist who also plays bass in the pop band The Pumps.*

# STRESS!

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# Gay days in ORLANDO

By Roy Heale

The pool at Parliament House

The Magic Kingdom

Sometimes a city is widely known for a sole reason when, in fact, there may be a multitude of phenomena which make that city world-famous. Such is the case with Orlando in central Florida renowned as the theme park capital of America. This year, Walt Disney World celebrated fifty years of castle magic throughout all four Walt Disney World Theme Parks. Because of this legacy, Orlando has become synonymous with the Magic Kingdom Park plus all the other enchanting attractions.

But Orlando has much more to offer and every day is a gay day in this Florida wonderland. The city has recently developed notoriety amongst GLBT vacationers as a gay-friendly destination with a unique brand of magical entertainment for the gay traveller. Of course, theme parks have a universal appeal for holiday fun to make one *feel like a kid again* but there are many reasons why Orlando is becoming popular as a gay vacation destination.

With a population of nearly two million in Greater Orlando, the city has evolved into a cosmopolitan centre for dining, arts and culture, theatre, plus its nightspots. Few cities in the world come close to rivaling this city's incredible year-round recreational offerings, with more than two thousand lakes, ponds and rivers for swimming, boating, water skiing and fishing. Coupled with the temperate climate and sunshine, every day is perfect for a summer vacation even when other parts of the globe are covered in snow.

Just over fifteen years ago, one significant day at the Magic Kingdom Park changed Orlando's gay community forever. Gay Days began in 1991 as a single designated day (always the first Saturday in June) when the gay and lesbian community are encouraged to *wear red and be seen* while visiting the world's most popular theme park. Spearheaded and organised by the local gay community, this one-day event has evolved into a weeklong celebration attracting almost 150,000 GLBT pleasure seekers from across the United States and around the world. The more than forty citywide, round-the-clock events include theme park visits, cocktail soirées, concerts and a host of internationally renowned parties.

Along with the acceptance and popularity of GayDays by the Orlando community at large, this city's gay friendly reputation has evolved. This has fostered a positive environment for gay businesses to develop and flourish, to the point where the city now boasts over twenty bars, nightclubs and resorts for the gay tourist to sample and enjoy.

An historic Orlando gay landmark is the New Parliament House Resort complex, which is known and recognised throughout the world as the premier gay accommodation in central Florida—a reputation that has been well earned with thirty-plus years of serving the gay and lesbian traveller. Comprising one hundred and thirty spacious rooms, a swimming pool, six clubs and bars including a cozy piano bar, a full service restaurant and cabaret theatre, this resort is the ultimate for an *everything under one roof* concept, which ensures a relaxing vacation. In addition, there are volleyball courts, and a lakeside beach located just minutes from downtown Orlando and about a thirty-minute drive from all the theme parks. With friendly, welcoming staff creating a perfect vacation atmosphere this is the only place to stay gay for an all encompassing *at home* experience.

Next door to the Parliament House is their newest addition, The Gardens, a Gold Crown alternative lifestyle vacation ownership resort. This is the first of its kind in North America providing time-share vacation ownership exclusively for the GLBT community. Comprising ten acres of lakefront and gated resort, this is the ultimate complex of South Beach style condominiums situated in a lush, relaxed environment.

In addition to luxury one or two bedroom vacation homes, this resort includes an extensive list of amenities–including a 3200 square foot health club, lakefront boardwalk and bar, paddle boats, kayaks, canoes, a lagoon style swimming pool with cascading waterfalls, hot tubs, tropical gardens and sun tanning areas, just to name a few.

Whether you choose Parliament House or The Gardens, you are guaranteed a perfect vacation home away from home filled with gay days close to the heart of all that Orlando has to offer. However, a word of caution—you may find that you never leave these premises! With everything they provide for the gay tourist, it's a rainbow paradise all by itself. From daytime at the pool to nighttime in the entertainment venues this complex has it all—and the staff know how to make your holiday a perfect relaxing gay get-away.

Parliament House Resort and Spa

During your stay if you're feeling adventurous, you might want to rent a car and explore Orlando's closest beaches known as Florida's Space Coast. Home to the Kennedy Space Centre, the US Astronaut Hall of Fame, Port Canaveral Cruises and Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, there's more than a day's fun to be had in and around this coastal region. NASA's famous island launch headquarters is just a forty-five-minute drive east of Orlando and it offers the

chance of a lifetime to explore the very grounds where man's journey into space begins. The island is six times the size of Manhattan and the Kennedy Space Centre is a place of discovery where history-making technology works in harmony with Florida's unique natural environment. Tour the space shuttle launch pads or watch an IMAX galaxy adventure and you'll feel like an astronaut for the day!

Closer to your vacation home on Orlando's Cypress Lake, an airboat ride will keep your feet on the ground (or water) and closer to nature in the Central Florida Everglades. See alligators, birds and wildlife on unspoiled lakes, rivers, creeks and marshes within the famous Florida swampland—that's not for sale!

When the sun sets, which in itself is likely to be a spectacular experience, the Orlando nightlife provides a multitude of choices from gay bars and clubs to dinner theatre and more. There are several local gay publications including Watermark, Out on the Coast, Buzz, 411 Magazine and TLW Magazine, which include complete listings and advertisements promoting all that Orlando has to offer in gay entertainment. With more than twenty gay bars and clubs, rest assured there is something for everyone no matter what your pleasure may be, age group or taste. This is a gay mecca for all that is usual–plus something unusual that you cannot experience at home. You might be lucky enough to spend an evening in the Parliament House cabaret theatre when the staff don costumes and entertain the guests with some first class drag performances, which rival some of the most professional impersonations you have ever seen.

Dinner entertainment can take you on a journey through time in this fantasy-land of fun. The Medieval Times Dinner and Jousting Tournament or Capone's Dinner and Show (just to name two possibilities) will make dining a truly unique and historic experience. You might want to enjoy one of the more than five thousand restaurants that Orlando has to offer with a variety of gourmet cuisine choices to satiate any discerning palate.

From Louis Vuitton to Gucci bags, Tiffany diamonds to Ocean Pacific flip flops and second-hand treasures, plus everything in between—Orlando has emerged as an international shopping leader without equal. You can be sure the pink dollar receives a warm welcome everywhere on those gay days when you feel the urge to shop.

And of course there are always the theme parks! This really is the capital of the world for a dose of fantasy and hair-raising roller coaster rides, combined with inspiring scenery and nature. Walt Disney and others in the entertainment industry really know how to inspire that sense of magic with surreal experiences that live in your memory long after any vacation ends.

Orlando is truly in a class of it's own for memorable gay days while you're on vacation. From every Florida sunrise to sunset the magical kingdom transports you into a fantasy world each and every day of your trip.

So search the back of your closet to find those Mickey Mouse ears and step into a new gay realm of fun, fantasy and fabulous holidays. ▼

## Helpful Websites

**gaydays.com** (May 29 to June 4, 2007) Book early to avoid disappointment.

**parliamenthouse.com**
**thegardensorlando.com**
**gayorlandotravel.com**
**orlandoinfo.com**
**tlwmagazine.com**
**medievaltimes.com**
**funmaps.com**
**watermarkonline.com**
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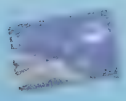

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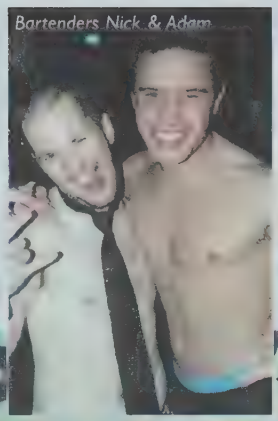
# out & about EDMONTON

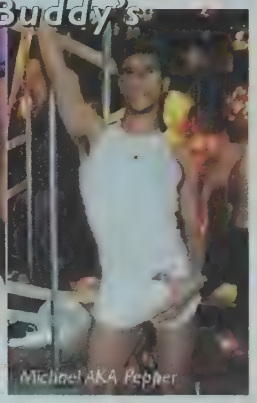

Bartenders Nick & Adam

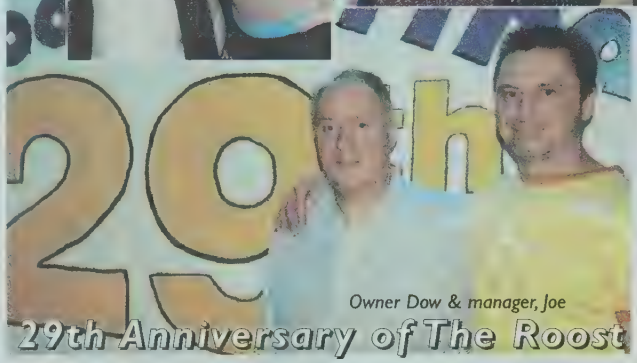
Correction: Our apologies to Dustin and Tizzy for the incorrect photo captions in last issue's Out & About.

Ethyl, Binks & Ruby

## Studio54 Party at Buddy's

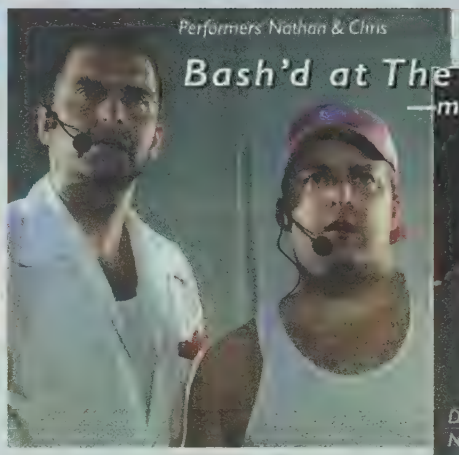
Dan & Alan


Michael AKA Pepper


Owner Dow & manager, Joe

## 29th Anniversary of The Roost

Planning an event in Edmonton?
Contact jackson@jacksonphotografix.com and he'll see about covering it in Out & About
Photos by: jacksonphotografix.com

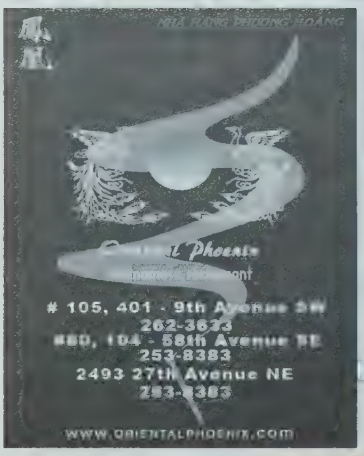

Performers Nathan & Chris

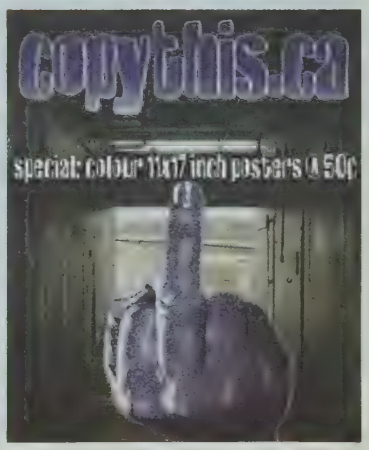
## Bash'd at The Roost
—myspace.com/bashd

Darrin Hagen & Nathan

## 15th Annual HIV AIDS Walk for Life—Jasper Avenue

CityTV's Paul Mennie



# Rejuvenate your body and skin at Novaderm Cosmetic Clinic

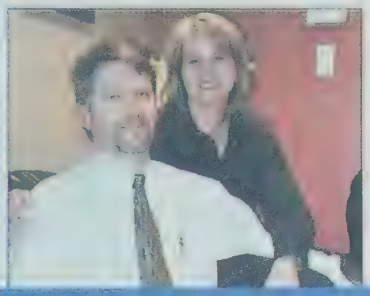
Novaderm Cosmetic Clinic

For the latest in professional skin treatments to help you look and feel your best, visit Novaderm Cosmetic Clinic in the city of Spruce Grove.

Located just 20 minutes west of the city, the clinic offers a complete package of body and skin care services from a team of expertly trained professionals in a comfortable, relaxing atmosphere.

The medical cosmetic clinic offers a variety of safe, effective treatments for everything from wrinkles and skin damage to acne and excessive hair.

"We pride ourselves on using the latest technology and providing our clients with privacy and excellent care," notes technician Esmé Duvel, who owns the clinic along with her husband, Dr. Hercules Duvel.



Dr. Duvel has been a family physician in Spruce Grove since 1997. He has a special interest in cosmetic procedures and a reputation as one of the top medical cosmetic doctors in the Edmonton area.

In fact, clients travel from across the Capital Region to see Dr. Duvel and the team at Novaderm.

"Word of mouth has really brought a lot of people from Edmonton to us," says Esmé.

**FAT REDUCTION, SKIN TIGHTENING**

As an alternative to surgery, Novaderm offers several non-invasive anti-aging treatments to help you look as young as you feel.

The clinic has just purchased a new high-tech radio frequency device – one of only two in Western Canada – which simultaneously burns fat and tightens skin and produces noticeable results in three to five days.

It can be used on the both the face and body. "This is the newest in cellulite treatment and fat reduction," says Dr. Duvel.

The treatment is popular in the U.S., Europe and Asia.

"We are so excited about this new device and the results it will give our clients," says Esmé.

Thermage, also known as ThermaCool, is another radio frequency treatment available to tighten facial skin without surgery.

**ANTI-AGING TREATMENTS**

Cosmetic fillers are a popular anti-aging treatment offered by Novaderm.

The team at Novaderm can help you decide which treatment is best for you.

Botox, for example, can be used to treat wrinkles and even excessive sweating.

Other injectable fillers, like Restylane and Perlane, help erase lines and plump up wrinkles, with results that last up to six months or more.

For longer term results, Dermadeep or Dermalive has been shown to last three to five years.

**LASER HAIR REMOVAL**

Novaderm technicians are trained to use both the Palomar Medilux and Sciton Profile laser hair removal systems.

Clients can expect a 70 to 90 per cent hair reduction after an average of six treatments.

"It really boosts their self-confidence," says Esmé.

**IPL PHOTO FACIALS**

Photo facials can be used to treat sun damaged skin, age spots, broken capillaries on the face and rosacea.

The treatment reveals younger, healthier looking skin and stimulates collagen production.

Photodynamic therapy is also used for treating precancerous legions and severe acne.

**SKIN CARE PRODUCTS**

Novaderm offers several lines of skin care products, including the Skin Tx, a popular treatment for discoloured skin conditions like age spots and melasma.

It can be used by people with both light and dark skin.

The clinic also offers a line of mineral make-up which doesn't clog pores and has an SPF 24.

**EXPANDING TO SERVE YOU BETTER**

Novaderm is expanding to better serve its clients, with a new medical cosmetic spa with an attached medical facility scheduled to open in spring 2007.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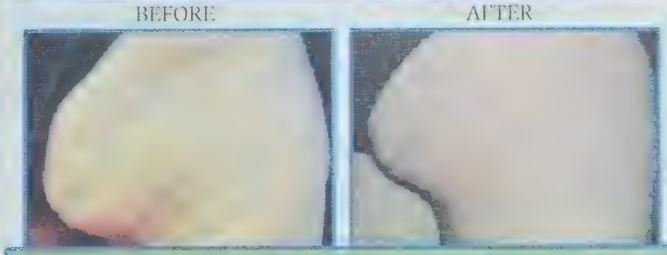


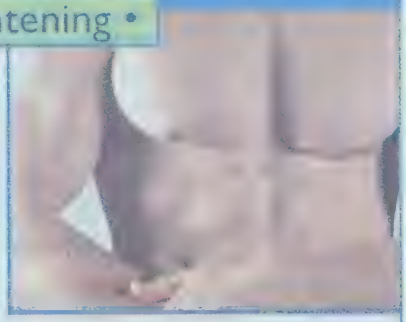

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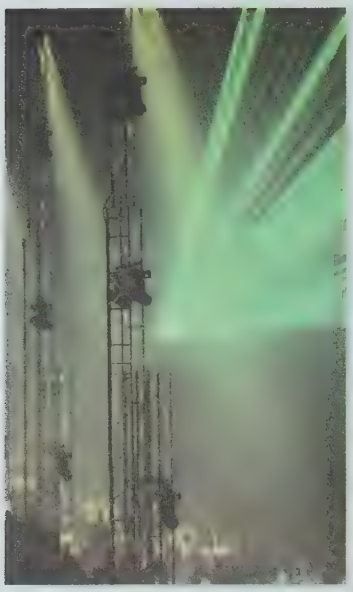
Novaderm Cosmetic Clinic



# Oh What A Party!

***By Daniel Wylie & Michael Sinnott***

What a unique name! This groups' handle evokes thoughts of a leather bar of some sort? In actual fact it is a highly motivated group of volunteers and staff that acts as a successful party promoter and charitable organization. Bad Boys Club of Montréal (BBCM) started in 1991 as a group of friends who got together to throw Montréal's gay community a BIG PARTY and at the same time raise awareness and money for many GLBT causes–especially HIV/AIDS. The first Black and Blue party attracted 800 people and has grown to include more than 15,000 partiers from all over the world who attended the final event of the festival.

BBCM takes its responsibility to the GLBT community seriously. Typical circuit parties have a reputation of attracting people intent on partying with drugs and alcohol. To address these concerns BBCM has in place a "Party Safely Harm Reduction Campaign" and they work in conjunction with some of the gay positive health centres in the village to promote safer partying. The idea is to enjoy the music, dancing and partying in a manner that doesn't put anyone in harm's way.

BBCM has donated through the BBCM Foundation over $1.1 million dollars to various GLBT charities. The economic spin-off since 1992 from these events has been estimated to be in the neighbourhood of $500 million dollars to the Montréal economy. The number of events that BBCM sponsors has increased over the years to include big dance parties on the following weekends; Valentines Day (Red), Victoria Day (Hot and Dry), during Montréal Pride (Twist) and on New Year's Eve (Bal des Boys). All of these events promote Montréal as the place to party on these holidays. In addition, BBCM sponsored the major parties that took place during the 2006 Montréal OutGames.

By far the biggest and most popular of these events is the annual Black and Blue festival which takes place the week of Canadian Thanksgiving. There are literally hundreds of events during the week that celebrate the many aspects of gay life. Social, cultural, sporting and partying events are held throughout the week and in total can attract as many as 80,000 people. Some of the more popular events of the week include; the Jock Ball, the Leather Ball, the Military Ball and the Recovery Party (after all of these events you need to recover!) This past Black and Blue party was held at Olympic Stadium. The theme for this event was Supersonic. The centre field of the Big O (which is what we Montréalers affectionately call the Olympic stadium) was transformed into a giant international space Skyport, including a full size mock-up of an aircraft. The theme's imagery asked those in attendance to not only fly around the world but to other planets. Of course the method of flight was to dance the night away to the sounds of many international DJ's. Every year the lighting and staging of this event are spectacular. Many who attend this all night party are dressed in the theme colours—black and blue—and many more were looking as if they were a 'flight attendant'.

But BBCM Airlines has hit turbulence this year. Ticket Sales were down. The VIP passes which are usually off the market at the end of August continued all the way through the festival. Montréalers were partied out by the time this year's festival arrived. While many visitors from abroad continued to attend the event, many locals–having partied too much during the OutGames, appear to have skipped this year's event. Attendance was down by almost half, as many of the reports in the local media put the numbers at the main event somewhere between 7,000-8,000 participants. Another major blow to BBCM was the recent announcement by the federal minister responsible for Québec's economic development, Jean-Pierre Blackburn not to renew funding for the Black and Blue Festival, funding which would have amounted to about $55,000 this year. In a press release, spokesperson Caroline Rousse said, "The Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Québec (EDA) program, which falls under the responsibility of Minister Blackburn, should normally be managed without bias towards the socio-cultural diversity of the client group or of events' 'family' content. Similarly, the 'financial maturity' of these large-scale events should have no bearing on the allocation of grants under the program since grant amounts are used exclusively to promote the events abroad, and not for the operational budgets of the organizing bodies. Promotion of these festivals at the international level has a direct and significant impact on the city of Montréal as it enhances the visibility of our metropolis abroad." BBCM has appealed this decision directly to the Minister responsible for Montréal, Mr. Michael Fortier. To date, no response has been received. It seems funny that either entire programs or specific grants that benefit GLBT communities have been targeted for cancellation by this new federal government

While this will not be an easy year for BBCM, we in Montréal know that the 17th Edition of Black and Blue will rebound and produce an even better time for Montréalers and our guests alike. ▼

*Daniel Wylie is active in the HIV/AIDS, bear and leather communities. Michael Sinnott is a desperate HouseBear who just can't stop dancing and a former Mr. Edmonton Leather. They are now happily married and live and write in Montréal.*

*Planning an event in Calgary? Contact Cap at cpeters@outlooks.ca and he'll see about covering it in Out & About. Photos by: Outlooks Staff*

# BACKLOT

## 10th Anniversary Party—October 18

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*Planning an event in Winnipeg? Contact Brent at (204) 789-9215 and he'll see about covering it in Out & About. All Photos By: Brent Y*

## 3rd Annual Fall Supper
*—Oct 15 at Crossways-in-Common*

# BACKLOT

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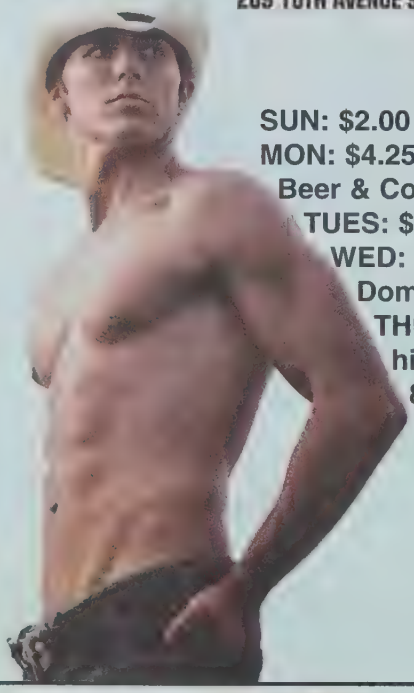

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TUES: $2.00 Draft
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THURS: $5 double highballs 8pm till close
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# Proud Public Servants

*By Dale Smith*

Back in the fifties, when it seemed like America's main export was fear and McCarthyism, there was an actual panic by the RCMP that gays and lesbians in the civil service would be Canada's undoing because their "shame" would leave them vulnerable to blackmail by Russian agents. Despite the fact that there was but a single instance where a gay civil servant was approached by a Russian agent—who then duly reported the incident to his superiors—the eventual witch-hunt recorded some nine thousand "confirmed and suspected homosexuals" in the Ottawa area, destroying many peoples' lives in the process.

Fast-forward to 1996, when the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that sexual orientation should be included in the Canadian Human Rights Act as a ground for action in cases of discrimination. This meant that federal departments were now forbidden from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation. Even the Canadian Forces had allowed gays and lesbians to openly serve since 1992. By 1997, a few small groups including one at Heritage Canada started the foundations of what is now the Public Service Pride network.

"It had been going for several years, as a very small-scale gathering of about twenty-to-twenty-five people who knew each other and would gather for lunches," recounts Gordon Boissonneault, a deputy director at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, who currently coordinates the network. "It was in about 2004 when they decided to throw it open and use the power of the Internet and each of our networking abilities to broaden and expand it. When that decision was made, it was like gangbusters. It didn't take very long."

A website was established and the network grew. Boissonneault was one of the earliest volunteers who took charge of the contact list when fellow public servant Doug Janoff was the steward of the group, but when Janoff stepped back to work on other projects, Boissonneault took the reigns.

"Our main feature item is a monthly pub night that's quite popular and it's a great networking opportunity for people," Boissonneault enthuses. "We like to move around and support different businesses and it's a format that helps to reinforce our community presence."

At this point, the network is still kept fairly casual, without a formal mandate. "It's more of a group that's come together," Boissonneault says. "We're very open to suggestions and ideas and we encourage people to send those in. The success of the group shows that it's struck a chord and could be a model for other sectors too. People networking, because people change jobs so much through their careers, so networking is important, networking as a gay person is quite important, so the two really marry together quite nicely."

As the network and their events grew, however, the time has come when Boissonneault believes that a bit more of a formal structure is needed to take it to the next step. "There are two objectives in mind," he says. "One is to ensure that it's an inclusive group, and that everyone's views about what it should and what it can be are heard, and we need a format that allows people to come in to volunteer and have a decision making role in a more formal way. The second thing is that because we're fairly bare bones in terms of just me and a few ad-hoc volunteers here and there, we don't get to do all of the things that we could do. It's a large group with a lot of potential to do a lot of different things in a lot of different areas that we're not currently doing. Because I have limited time and capacity, it's really important that we get other people involved so that we can start branching out into other activities than we're currently doing."

One of the most important things is to see that the network grows beyond the Ottawa region. "We'd really like to do more to support the regions," Boissonneault says. "The Public Service is all across Canada, we've got members all across Canada, and we're constantly looking at ways to involve them as so many of our activities are Ottawa-based."

"Where there's capacity in the different regions, we'd like people to start their own little groups on a small scale," Boissonneault says. "Maybe coffee groups or discussion groups on a regular basis. It's a great way for people that work for the government in smaller centres to get to know each other because they're probably scattered and diverse because the numbers are smaller. Another thing we're looking at doing is support those who travel to Ottawa for business, if they don't necessarily know anyone in Ottawa or maybe the people that they do know or are travelling with are straight, so the time they spend here would be in a straight environment. We'd like to create what we'd like to call a 'welcome wagon', and introduce them to some of the local people here, either in their own department or in other departments and introduce them to a little of the gay life in Ottawa."

And while the network is certainly not just a boys' club, Boissonneault is also looking for ways to get the women on the contact list more involved. "We strive to make our events open and inclusive across gender, sexuality and age group—we don't want to raise any barriers," he says. "That said, the way the demographics work, most of our events tend to be more men than women and some women see that as a barrier. We did establish a different once-a-month event for women only in conjunction with another local women's network, and that's getting off the ground and we're really encouraging women to support that."

Another way of reaching out is to start involving more of the gay and lesbian staff who work on Parliament Hill but who are not actually a part of the public service. The smaller Hill Pride network is being organised by Hill staffer Wes Clarke, who works as a legislative assistant to an MP. "There's a place for a Hill Pride network," Clarke says. "Hill staffers fall into a bit of a void because we're not civil servants and we're not in the private sector either. We have most of the same benefits that civil servants do, but we don't have the job security, the same job opportunities or opportunities for advancement. Those factors together means that there's a need for a network specifically for the Hill."

And while socialising and networking are at the core of the network, Boissonneault sees another important role to play. "My feeling is we've been ahead of the curve with a lot of the rights," he says of the Public Service. "Maybe that's because we've got the union movement supporting us, and a lot of our rights have been established ahead of the rights for Canadians in general, but the interesting thing is that there are still people who feel threatened. There are a lot of people in our group who are reluctant to come out and give their government email addresses. So even though a lot of the rules and legislation are there, there still are people who are victims of homophobia and it varies department by department too. We still have those issues to fight for as we celebrate our successes."

**publicservicepride.ca/** ▼

*Dale Smith is a freelance writer who lives in Ottawa. His work also regularly appears in Capital Xtra and Ottawa Xpress, and he has previously written for XY Magazine.*

# out & about CALGARY

ARGRA Dance—October 14

Mr. Leather Calgary Contest
—Calgary Eagle October 21

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*Photos by: Outlooks Staff*

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# Where Have All The Divas Gone?

*By Doug Ross*

I've only recently come to grips with the fact that Cher really has said her final *farewell* to Toronto. After appearing in concert here three times in less than two years—during her seemingly endless *Farewell* tour—it was a bitter pill to swallow when I was forced to believe that my favourite gay icon couldn't count to four. Why? Because unfortunately there hasn't been another powerhouse diva come through town to pick up where that Academy Award winner left off.

Unfortunately, this past summer Toronto missed out on playing host to Madonna when she opted to bypass our fair city and perform her very controversial *Confessions on a Dance Floor* concert in Montréal instead. Of course that didn't stop her local die-hard fans from quickly purchasing tickets at highly inflated prices and heading east to la belle province. But what was her Majesty thinking? Was she purposely ignoring her Toronto fans? And that same question could possibly be asked of beloved showstopper, Liza Minnelli who also appeared only in Montréal. Mind you, in all fairness to Liza with a *z*, her appearance there was as the closing act for World Outgames 2006 and not part of a multi-city tour. But still, we're only a hop, skip and a jump away, which is an easy enough step for a seasoned Broadway dancer. Which immediately makes me think of Liza's show biz best friend, Chita Rivera who was scheduled to appear in town with her Tony nominated, one-woman show *The Dancer's Life*. But instead she sidestepped us and never showed up.

So, I am left to wonder if the number of performing divas has actually dwindled to a mere trickle, regardless of the city? The legendary Tina Turner claims to be happily retired, while the sensational Bette Midler is probably still busy reading the rave reviews from her past top-grossing trek. I recall that a few years ago, I was forced to travel to Detroit, Michigan to see the Divine Miss M when she not only missed stopping in my city, but in fact she de-toured around my entire country! The tabloid headlines tell us that troubled diva Whitney Houston clearly has bigger problems than selling concert tickets to deal with at the moment, and so has baby diva Britney Spears. (Ladies…begin by dumping those husbands right now!) Our very own Shania Twain recently opened a hometown museum that was dedicated to her. The fabulous Celine Dion appears to be living and singing happily ever after in Las Vegas. So, who is left? Are they even on the road? And if they are, will they be headed my way?

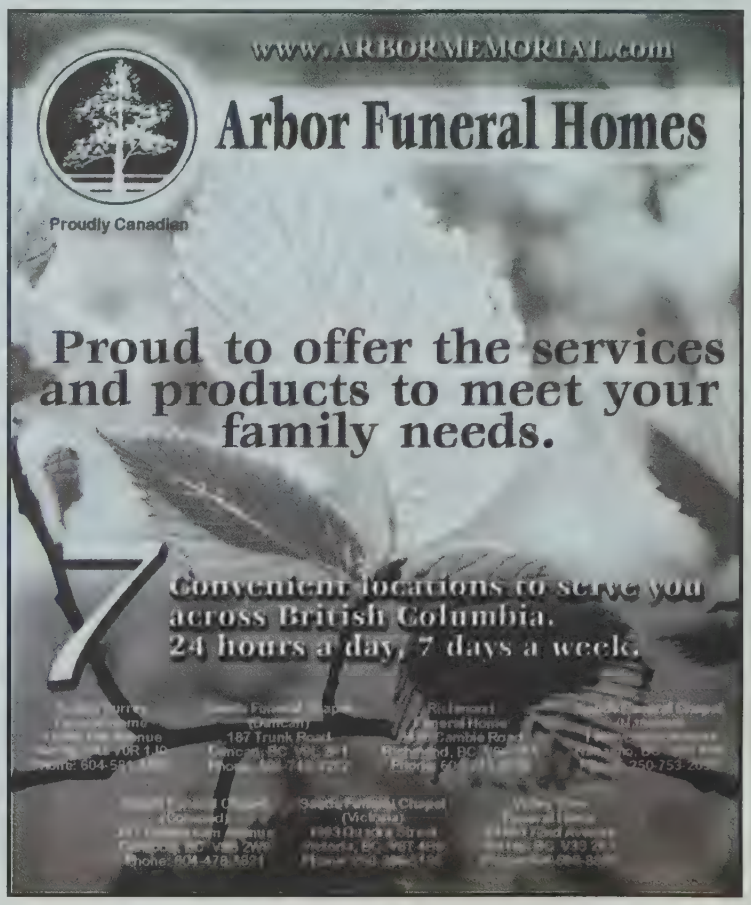
Well, first let's decide which particular songstress qualifies to be considered a diva. That subjective argument is eerily similar to the ongoing debate raging in the fashion world concerning the title of supermodel where it takes more than a Sears catalogue cover, a garage band boyfriend or even being a tsunami survivor to be ordained as such. First and foremost, the main ingredient required is to possess talent with a capital *T* and all true divas have a surplus of genuinely fierce talent. They also inspire a non-judgmental loyalty in their dedicated fans. They are not just the current *it* girl. Therefore, pretenders to the throne need not apply. Buh-bye Paris Hilton! And surely the fashion world doesn't need the phone-throwing, assistant-abusing, agent-firing antics of *Miss Thing* to appear in bold type to embarrass that industry's truly deserving superstars either. Yes, your crown has definitely slipped Miss Campbell!

But just as I am at a low point of despair, I notice that the tide could be turning, since Toronto recently enjoyed a free concert by the gorgeous Beyonce. And although her latest CD isn't a runaway success, I can assure you that her voice was in incomparable form and that she glittered like a polished jewel as she worked her concert stage like a true pro. Her very appreciative fans ate it all up and begged for more. One can only hope that sexy dynamo Janet (does anyone look better on a magazine cover?) Jackson will put us on her dance card when she hits the road promoting her latest musical endeavour. And now that diva-in-training Nelly Furtado is hotter than a pistol—does that mean that Toronto will be seeing her again soon? Hopefully it does, because I was unfortunately out of town during her last time through.

But the biggest news of all that keeps me believing in the power of divadom, is that none other than the living legend herself, Miss Barbra Streisand will be here any day! You heard me correctly...Miss Barbra Streisand is scheduled to perform two rare live shows in Toronto. Both of her extravagantly priced performances sold out instantly. But I'm sure you didn't expect it to be otherwise because, after all, this is the notoriously gun-shy superstar's second only live singing engagement in Canada during her entire career. (Mind you, we'll never know for sure whether she whispered—or perhaps warbled—sweet nothings to Prime Minister Trudeau while they were dating!) If you are still in desperate need of a seat for this unique event, various online ticket service companies, listings in the local city papers and of course ebay are all doing brisk business. I hope to see you there.

Well, now that I have managed to cheer myself up, let me pass on the latest diva in concert rumour…Celine will apparently re-open the refurbished entertainment complex at the Windsor Casino in 2008. Okay, fine, she's not exactly coming right into town, but what's a little drive when it comes to a true blue diva? ▼

*Doug is a busy producer/casting director within the Toronto entertainment industry. He has just been contracted to ghostwrite a book for a locally-based television personality.*



# The New Divas

*By Matt Salton*

It's just plain bizarre that we have a collective consciousness when it comes to the adoration of certain female personalities. If ever there were a Gay Man's Diva Hall of Fame we know that the likes of Judy, Cher, Barbra, Madonna and Marilyn would have entire wings devoted to them because our adoration of the same women over the years has become a predictable cliché. Thank Goddess there is a new bumper crop of fabulously sexy, powerful and talented women demanding our respect, awe and envy. Clear the shelves, altars and mantels because here are a dozen women that every pink-blooded Canadian male should worship—the new inductees of the Diva Hall of Fame.

**Margaret Cho**. If you are gay and unfamiliar with Margaret Cho then you have some serious catching up to do, *gurrl*. Margaret has made a serious stand-up career as America's Favorite Fag Hag. Whether she's cracking up audiences with her impersonations of her Korean mother or sharing intimately funny but bittersweet stories about her battles with eating disorders or her Asian-American identity, Cho is always keeping it real.

**Parker Posey**. She has acted in over sixty-five films, usually playing a minor variation of the same character—yet she is still regarded as one of the finest actors working in Hollywood. Parker Posey is Parker Posey whether she's playing a hardcore bitch in *Dazed & Confused*, a dimwitted floozy in *Superman Returns* or a bitter district attorney in The Event. Fans wouldn't have it any other way. She can be seen next in Christopher Guest's new improv comedy *For Your Consideration* this fall.

**The Dixie Chicks**. Yes, alright, so there are technically three of them but for the sake of this article—Emily, Martie and Natalie represent a triptych of beauty, politics and pure musical genius. Their documentary *Shut Up And Sing* was nominated for the people's choice award at this years' Toronto International Film Festival and their record sales are still doing just fine, despite the continued boycott of their music by flag waving, moonshine drinking Republicans.

**Meryl Streep**. Sure she's been around forever. Sure she's been nominated thirteen times for an Academy Award. And sure she's probably the world's greatest living female actor. But who knew what a fabulous bitch she could pull off with such flair and panache in this year's otherwise humdrum comedy *The Devil Wears Prada* (except for the fifteen per cent of you that rented *She-Devil*). Next up, Ms. Streep will appear in "out" director Jonathan Caouette's *Evening*, penned by "out" writer Michael Cunningham and featuring a stellar female cast including Glenn Close, Natasha Richardson, Vanessa Redgrave and...

**Toni Collette**. Gay men fell in love with Collette from the first minute they laid eyes on her in Muriel's Wedding, playing an ugly ducking who moves to Sydney to reinvent her life and become fabulous. Since then she has appeared as the object of Julianne Moore's affection in *The Hours*, a drag queen in *Connie & Carla* and one seriously f****d-up psycho in the film adaptation of Armistead Maupin's *The Night Listener*. Now, amongst rumors of an Oscar nomination for her role as the frazzled mother of *Little Miss Sunshine*, Toni Collette is keeping extremely busy working on five new films for 2007.

**Belinda Stronach**. Thanks to Lady B's drama, Canadian politics has become glamorous again. The former president and chief executive officer of Magna International was ranked #2 in Fortune magazine's list of the world's most powerful women in business in 2002. Even before defecting to the Liberals, Belinda made it known that she would not vote with her party against gay marriage. Too bad the media can't focus more on her brains and beauty than on whom she chooses to bed.

**Nelly Furtado**. This Portuguese-Canadian went from the girl-next-door to man-eating vixen over the course of a year. Nelly officially owned the summer of 2007 with her booty-shaking dance track *Promiscuous Girl*. Most importantly

thanks to Ms. Furtado, another undermining slur has been reclaimed and empowered. Nellies rejoice!

**Brett Somers**. What? Who? Is he nuts? Trust me. Ask around, Brett is hot once again! Thanks to the Game Show Network, a whole new generation can enjoy the charm and sass of the lovely Somers. Probably one of the few celebrities who is most famous for being a panelist on a game show. Brett appeared on *The Match Game* for over ten years often playing fag hag to the other guest mainstay Charles Nelson Reilly. This New Brunswick native is currently traveling with her musical memoir of her life in show business.

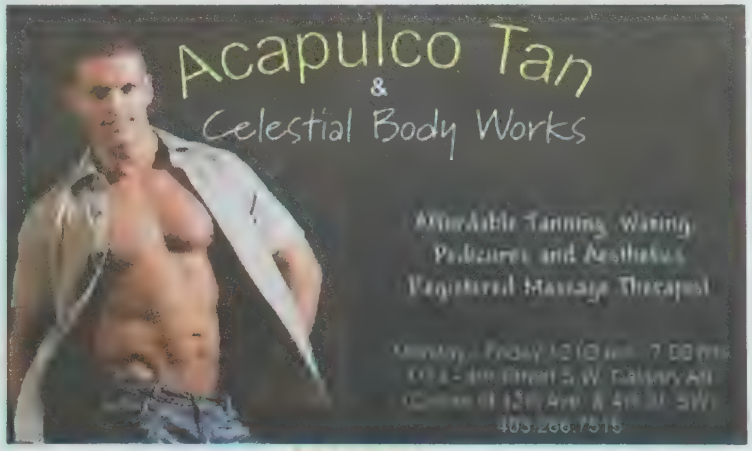
**Tricia Helfer**. Blonde, beautiful and legs that go all the way up makes Tricia an object of desire for many straight men. Gay men love Tricia for her delicious portrayal of Number 6 on *Battlestar Galactica* and as the Canuck version of *Canada's Next Top Model*. She will be next seen in the Canadian-made film *The Green Chain*.

**Margot Kidder**. Why you ask? It took a summer blockbuster that Kidder wasn't in to prove that she is the only woman that a man in tights would believably fall for. Stealing scenes as of late in *Robson Arms* and *The L Word* Margot also balances her acting career by educating the public on the misconceptions affiliated with mental illness. Ms. Kidder is way overdue for her props as a fantastic actor and object of a gay man's affection.

**Sandra Oh**. Ohhh Sandra! Our beautiful Canadian import ignites the small screen as smartass Dr. Cristina Yang on *Grey's Anatomy*, showing Americans what we've known since *Double Happiness*—Oh is simply stunning. Two of Canada's finest "out" directors bring out some of Oh's best work in Thom Fitzgerald's *3 Needles* and Daniel MacIvor's ensemble comedy *Wilby Wonderful*.

**Mary J. Blige.** She's won three Emmy Awards and has sold more than twenty-five million albums worldwide. Her latest CD *The Breakthrough* is chock full of sass, soul and female empowerment. She addresses her dark past of alcohol abuse and drug addiction but doesn't dwell in the darkness, choosing instead to revel in her newly found diva-hood. ▼

*Matt Salton has been programming the reelout queer film & video festival in Kingston for the past six years. He currently lives in Calgary where he is studying film & video production. He can be contacted at reelpublicity@yahoo.ca*



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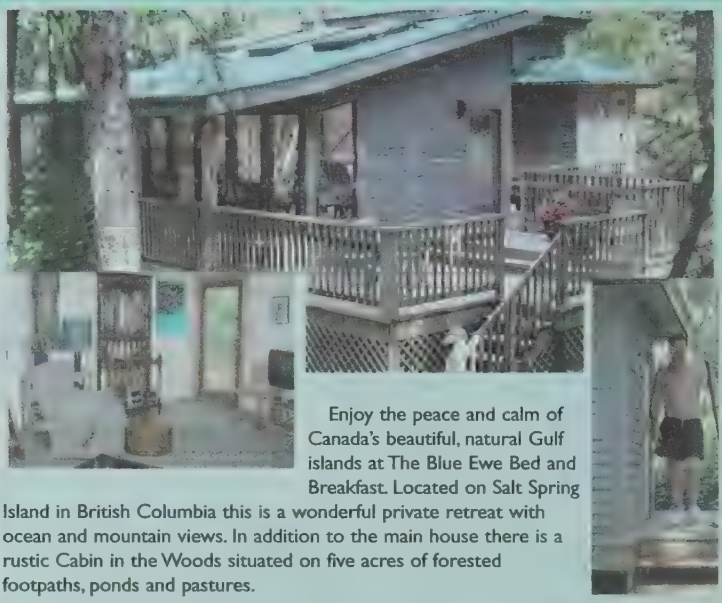
## OUTLOOKS' FEATURE B&B

# The Blue Ewe



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# NDP CONVENTION RECORDS A NUMBER OF QUEER FIRSTS

***By Rick Pollard***

From September 8 to 10, 2006, federal New Democrats held their policy convention in Québec City. Most of the coverage in the mainstream media focused on the party's position on the war in Afghanistan and on speeches by such luminaries as Stephen Lewis, Shirley Douglas, Gary Doer and Jack Layton. But many queer activists in the party will remember the convention as the weekend in which the NDP, which was the first political party in Canada to endorse equal marriage rights for same sex couples, recorded a number of new firsts in the ongoing struggle for GLBT equality rights.

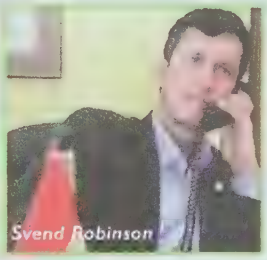
## First Transgendered Woman Elected to Major Position

On the opening day of the Convention, queer delegates gathered to elect the co-chairs of the party's GLBT Committee for the next two years. After a heated contest between four candidates, delegates elected former Burnaby Douglas MP Svend Robinson and Micheline Anne Montreuil to lead the Committee. As Canada's first openly gay MP and a tireless advocate of GLBT equality rights, Robinson is a figure well-known to Canadians. But, Montreuil has an equally impressive resumé as a transgendered woman from Québec City who has recorded many firsts in the struggle for equality rights.

Jack Layton

Micheline Anne Montreuil

Stephen Lewis


Svend Robinson

In September 1997, Montreuil filed a request with the office of the Registrar of the Province of Québec to add the first name "Micheline" to her birth certificate so that she could obtain a driver's license and a passport under her new name. This, in spite of the fact that she had not yet undergone gender reassignment surgery. In 1998, the Québec Superior Court ordered that a new driver's license be issued under the name "Micheline Montreuil".

In December 1997, Montreuil was fired from her job as a law professor at Collège François-Xavier-Garneau. A lawsuit related to this matter is still making its way through the courts. When she was fired, Montreuil said she made the decision to start living her life openly since the last obstacle holding her back from doing so had been removed.

On May 13t, 1998, Montreuil made the decision to erase all traces of her former male identity. That identity has never again reappeared publicly.

In the fall of 1999, Montreuil made history when she began teaching a course, as a woman, on medical ethics at Université du Québec à Rimouski. She made history again in September 2000 when she began studying for her doctorate of law at Université Laval. In June 2002, she began working as a tax collector for the Québec Income Tax Department. She was subsequently elected vice-president and then president of her union local, another first.

Montreuil has an extensive record of community involvement including Egale and the Imperial Court system. She has performed extensively throughout North America, and has also hosted her own radio show.

Montreuil has now made history again, as the first transgendered woman elected to a major position in a Canadian political party.

For more information on Micheline Anne Helene Montreuil, visit her website at **micheline.ca**.

## Progressive Christians Reclaim God

"Jesus called. He wants his religion back." That's the catchphrase on a popular refrigerator magnet and bumper sticker. It would also be an apt description for the attitude of many New Democrats of faith who gathered at the Convention to form a new Faith and Social Justice Caucus and to hear a speech from openly gay Christian Peacemaker James Loney.

Loney is an anti-war activist who was held prisoner for 122 days in Iraq. The topic of his speech was, "Is There A Role for the Religious Left?"

In recent years, there has been a growing tendency to link faith with intolerance of diversity, including homosexuality. Catholic politicians have been chastised for their support of same sex marriage and a couple of NDP MPs were even refused communion at their local churches. Many members of the queer community have responded by turning their backs on organized religion.

But Loney told his audience that it would be a mistake for queers, and for progressive people of faith generally, to leave faith-based debates to the intolerant right. "It's true that religion has been used to bless every historical horror, including slavery, the oppression of women and indigenous people, and now the oppression of gay and lesbian people. But faith has also been a force for overthrowing slavery and liberating women. Faith can be used one of two ways. It can be used to maintain the status quo in favour of the powerful. Or it can be used to transform the status quo in favour of the powerless."

The Christian Peacemaker spoke of the *sacred canopy* that is often used to "deify an oppressive social architecture," and to protect the elite. He said that this is why he disagrees with those, including members of the queer community, who call for a separation of church and state. He argued that this type of separation lends itself to the preservation of an inequitable status quo.

"Religion is not a private matter," said Loney emphatically. "It moves us outside ourselves; it compels us to take part in the affairs of the world. If politics is a way we can work together for the common good, faith gives us a way of understanding what the common good is. It requires us to go out into the world and change it."

"If we pull up the drawbridge and isolate ourselves in our temples, our synagogues and our mosques, we will allow the religious right to hide beneath their sacred canopy. We will be giving them the exclusive right to speak for God."

Loney said that this does not mean that religious people should tell others what to believe. He said that, to the contrary, he takes the view that people of faith can learn a lot from other faiths or from people with no faith at all. He confessed to admiring people with no religious conviction who are active in social movements. "Many people who are agnostics or atheists work hard every day to change the world for the better. Personally, I'm amazed by that. Where does that energy come from? How do they keep from getting discouraged? I have nothing but respect for such people."

Several NDP MPs of faith also spoke in favour of a role for the religious left, including Bill Siksay, the openly gay MP for Burnaby-Douglas in British Columbia.

## First Political Party in World to Endorse Montreal Declaration

From July 26 to 28, 2006, the International Conference on GLBT Human Rights was held in Montréal in conjunction with the Outgames. This conference concluded with the Declaration of Montréal on GLBT Human Rights.

The declaration demanded an end to the death penalty worldwide for the 'crime of homosexual sex acts', the abolition of all laws against homosexual acts between consenting adults, and the right of asylum for those fleeing homophobic and transphobic persecution. It also called for the end of 'morality-based' restrictions on anti-HIV programs; permission and public insurance for medical care related to sex reassignment; equality rights, including marriage equality, for all queer persons worldwide; and a ban on elective surgery upon intersex children until the children are of an age where they can understand and consent to such surgery.

On the closing day of convention, Matthew McLauchlin, co-president of the NDP-Québec Section's LGBTT Affirmative Action Commission, presented a resolution to endorse the Montréal declaration to the 1500 delegates. His passionate and eloquent speech, delivered almost entirely in French, moved many queer delegates and their allies in the room to tears. The resolution passed overwhelmingly, and Canada's NDP became the first political party in the world to adopt the declaration.

As well, a comprehensive policy statement on the rights of transgendered people was approved by a Convention panel and will be sent to the party's Federal Council for ratification. ▼

*Rick Pollard is a long-time community activist and one of the co-hosts of "Out On the Air", a GLBT program that airs Wednesdays on CJTR community radio in Regina.*

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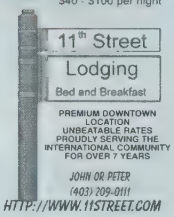


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FRUSTRATED BY BDSM
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A letter takes more effort, respondents are more serious. Experienced Master, B/D interests, in Vancouver/Victoria area seriously into Master/slave scene, seeks slave aged 18-29 prepared to move from fantasy to reality. Suggest initial trial period (weekend or ? ). Write with phone and/or postal address to Box 0899. No e-mail! Serious only

23 year old teacher, likes swimming and travelling. Looking for a man 24-55 years old for friendship.
Write to :
Rockson Kyerniel
PO BOX 2193
Sunyani B/A
Ghana W/A

Young gay man 23 yrs. old, 5'6", 70 kgs. romantic, loyal and faithful. Seeking gay man for long-term relationship and meeting. My hobbies are swimming, outdoors, movies and traveling.
Please send photo and letter to:
Frederick Gyasi
P O Box 110 Nsoatre - B/A
Ghana - W/A
gyasi20002000@yahoo.com

Young hot african guy 26 yrs. old. Searching for serious partner anywhere in the world for long-term relationship. I'm passionate, easygoing and honest. Please write with photos and phone number and all letters will be answered with photos of me.
Richmond Kingsford
New Village Rd P.O.Box 385
Nsoatre - B/A Ghana

Attractive 26 yr. old young lady. slim, loving, caring with good sense of humor. I am looking for long-term relationship possibly leading to marriage. Please write with photos and phone number to:
Miss Agyeiwaa Bertha
E. Victoria Park
P O Box 193 Nsoatre - B/A
Ghana - W/Africa

Ghanian gay guy 23 yrs. old, looking for friends from all over the world except Ghana. Hobbies include writing letters and listening to music. Please write to: Agtg Williams
P. O. Box 278 Nsoatre Ghana

23 yrs. old gay Ghanian guy. Looking for friends in Canada. I am masculine and healthy and looking for a long term partner.
Please write to: Hinneh Evans
Stamolford Street P O Box 17NS
NSoatre Brong Ahafo, Ghana, WA

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## 402 friends

Young, goodlooking, open minded, attractive, loving, single guy age 22. Looking for a man to share relationship. Looks and age are not important. Please write with e-mail or fax number and send photos.

Mohammed Mumuni
PO BOX 542
Berekum B/A Ghana W/A

Ghanian guy 26 yrs. old. I'm kind, honest, understanding, very sexy and atractive guy. 5'9 tall, enjoys sports and watching movies.
Please write to: Naa Rhymes
South Front P. O. Box 206
206, Nsoatre B/A Ghana, West Africa
rhynaab@yahoo.com

Brazil (45.180.96) GWM masculine hairy top, foot/tickle fetish seeks: 30-40 ND/NS non-slim caring, cuddlish, suportive blond (plus) serious life partner
Marc
Box 3670
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Ghanaian young, slim guy. Good looking, handsome, honest and interested in traveling. Like to meet guy for possible friendship one-to-one.No time wasted.

Write to: Ben De Kay
Flat House 6 - Villa City
PO BOX 187 - Berekum - B/A
Ghana

I am a nice slim attractive black guy 22 years old and would like to meet the man of my dreams. I am caring, sexy, loving, handsome and gentle.
Any age. Any and all replies will be answered.
Please write to Richard Asare
PO BOX 241 Nsoatre - B/A
Ghana, West Africa

Young, slim Ghanaian guy. Handsome, honest, caring, romantic and easy going. Interested in traveling and music. Looking for serious guy for friendship. Please write with photo and phone number :
Kwasi Africa
250 Flat Street
Anakrom City P.O.Box 241
Nsoatre B/A Ghana West Africa

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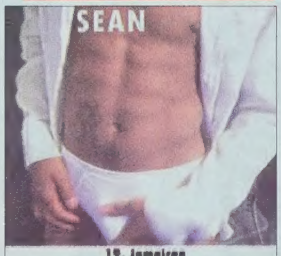
## 411 escorts

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## 504 in memoriam

*Boo Boo*

**In Calgary we lost an icon of our Gay Community. Our beloved bartender of 27 years passed away on Sept. 28th 2006. She is best remembered for her smile, charm & willingness to welcome all to Calgary. She introduced so many of us from locals to new comers and we remember her with great fondness from places like: Slack Alice, Mertz, The Bank, Off Centre, Bananas, Trax & MoneyPennies.**

*We Love You Boo Boo!*

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## Ramitall Inn
From: Raw Entry Club

**Featuring:** Paul, Michel, Dave, Milou, Julian, Jakob, Mike, Pitt, Roumy, Victor
**Running Time:** 120 Minutes

Anything can happen—and does—when a group of young men decide to take a break from city life and head into the country for a stay at the Ramitall Inn. With horse-back riding, mountain biking, hiking and numerous other outdoor activities available, this is certain to be a vacation these horny young men will remember for along time to come. Add to these outdoor activities the cold beer and hot food provided by the inn and these guys prove that they know how to enjoy a hot time when they escape their daily routines in the city.

The first guest arrives and his top priority is a cup of strong coffee in the bar. The handsome bartender at the inn is happy to serve his only customer—but he has more on his mind than just delivering a cup of coffee. The amorous guest submits to the bartender's advances. Very soon the table is being used for more than just a place to drink a cup of coffee. This is one bartender who knows exactly how to make his customers feel welcome and is definitely hoping for a big tip—something this customer is willing and equipped to give.

Meanwhile, two other guests are enjoying the great outdoors as they jog along the forest trails. When they decide to take a rest break in a secluded spot, it's obvious their physical exercise has made them both very horny. These two well-hung studs allow nature to take its course as they explore each other's perfect bodies for a perfect mutual climax.

Once more back at the inn, two young men are enjoying a rest from the physical outdoor activities as they enjoy coffee and a cigarette on the outdoor patio in the hot sun. Soon, this hot afternoon heats up their passion and they head inside to retreat into the shade. Away from the other guests the newfound friendship develops into passionate feelings and the staircase becomes the ideal place for afternoon sex.

These fresh young faces and their perfect "ten" bodies make for a first class production with lush landscapes, rolling hills and vast forests—a natural setting for sexual escapades.

*Review sponsored by Express Video*
*#202 - 11745 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton*
*(780)482-7480 exec.express@shaw.ca*

**RATING:**
(OUT OF FIVE STARS)

| | |
|---|---|
| MUSIC: | ★★★★ |
| BODIES: | ★★★★★ |
| ACTION: | ★★★★★ |
| SETS: | ★★★★★ |
| STORY: | ★★★ |

## Joe's Big Adventure
From: Delta Productions

**Featuring:** Joe Landon, Tommy Cruise and the famous Men of Montreal nightclub dancers: Karl, Vito, Guillaume, Jeff, Tommy, Jesse, Mike and Kenny

**Running Time:** 95 Minutes

Joe Landon is home alone enjoying the hot afternoon sun while relaxing in his pool. He's the all-American jock with a perfect muscular body, bright blue eyes, strawberry blond hair and a massive piece of manhood. The only difference is that he doesn't date the cheerleaders but is more interested in the guys on the team.

The movie begins with Joe splashing around in the pool as he recites a monologue about his early years, coming out and his discovery that he loves to travel. In this sexy, hot solo performance, Joe struts his stuff leading up to a poolside climax.

Later on, Joe heads into his house and decides to play the video he captured on his recent trip to Montréal. Just as the video begins playing, there is a knock on the front door and his handsome next-door neighbour, Tommy Cruise, joins him. Together they watch the Montréal video.

It turns out the movie is more than just Montréal scenery. It includes some hot French Canadian men who were happy to pose for a hunky cameraman. In the first scene Jeffery has been shopping for new underwear. Upon returning home, he has to show off the new purchase to his roommate, Jessy, who obviously approves—especially of the way in which it fits Jeffery's body perfectly. The underwear fashion show soon gives way to steamy afternoon sex.

Joe seems to have no difficulty making new friends when he is traveling. Karl and Guillaume are the next young men to fall under his spell. The couple, who have been dating since high school, do not hesitate to perform for Joe's camera. Their large leather living room couch is the perfect place for a hot encounter with Joe directing the action.

By the end of the video Tommy can't keep his hands off Joe's body and the two retire to Joe's bedroom without the camera. It's obvious that this is not their first time together and Tommy is ready for the massive man-meat that Joe gives freely to Tommy's lips. There might not be a camera, but Joe knows how to make it a memorable performance as his friend Tommy submits to his directing talent.

Sadly, Joe only made three films before retiring from the business and after you see this one you'll be hoping that he comes out of retirement one day soon!

*Review sponsored by*

GayHotMovies.com

**RATING:**
(OUT OF FIVE STARS)

| | |
|---|---|
| MUSIC: | ★★★★★ |
| BODIES: | ★★★★★½ |
| ACTION: | ★★★★★½ |
| SETS: | ★★★★★ |
| STORY: | ★★★★ |

# out & about OTTAWA

## Transgress —Oct 6 at the National Archives

Sky Gilbert, Gareth Kirby, Ivan E Coyote, James Moran, & Marnie Woodrow

Ivan E. Coyote signs a book

## AIDS Walk Ottawa —Sept 23 at City Hall

Max Keeping and the Marilyns

Canadian AIDS Society's Darren Fisher and philanthropist Bill Renaud

## Centertown Community Picnic

Alex Munter & Diane Holmes

*Planning an event in Ottawa?*
*Contact Jeremy at jersvision@yahoo.ca and he'll see about covering it in Out & About.*

# CruiseLine®

## Here is a sample of ads on Cruiseline right now!

**Friendship & Relationship:**
Attractive, downtown. Looking for other young guys to talk to and hang out with. I like to go out or sit at home and watch a movie. I enjoy cooking, working out, mountain biking, and swimming. I'm athletic, I keep a healthy lifestyle, and I'm looking for the same.

**Casual Encounters:**
26 year old Asian male, 5'5", 140lb, 7 1/2" cut, clean-shaven, nice, smooth body looking to get together with an older, in-shape bottom. Clean and safe. I'm open-minded and can be passionate.

**Casual Encounters:**
Extremely horny pretty much all the time; 31 year old total bottom. I definitely love to get it on with multiple tops at the same time. Always game for doing one on one as well. Looking for guys on a fairly casual regular basis. Very oral as well.

**Something Wild:**
44 years old, 230lb, nice body, nice build, masculine. I need another top to play with. 8" cut, nice dick, nice ass, let's go.

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